ARCHANT } publisher of KENT LIFE

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk May 11, 2014

Mid Edition No 607

BUSINESS »

D-day looms for Manston

Airport will shut on Thursday unless deal is struck

HEALTH »

Would you pay to see your GP?

Debate on plans to charge for doctor appointments

LIFESTYLE »

Inside: Homes & Gardens

Your inspiring guide to enhance where you live

TRANSPORT »

20 years of tunnel vision

Reflections on the anniversary of the opening of the Channel Tunnel

DOVER to CALAIS



16 crossings a day. From just £19 car + 9 people each way.* Offer code: SBUK

MYFERRYLINK

Owned and run by the crew

MYFERRYLINK.COM 0844 2482 100

*When booked as part of a 3 day short break. Book by 29/06/14 for travel by 30/06/14 excluding 23/05/14 – 01/06/14. Book online with offer code SBUK. Price subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time. Terms and conditions apply. See myferrylink.com for details.

The best garage is a safe one



Security, convenience & reliability

When it comes to remote controlled rolling garage door systems, Essati is a leader in innovation and quality.

Since 1995 Essati has been an inventive roller shutter garage door company catering for the needs of the residential market place.

In 2006 Essati introduced the insulated aluminium rolling garage door system, a sleek and beautiful modern rollerdoor of superior quality, conveniently operated by a small hand held key fob. This system combines security, convenience and reliability, with a beautiful stylish door of infinity, and it's completely maintenance free!

ESSATI

www.essatigaragedoors.co.uk

01622 765993

Remote controlled insulated aluminium rolling garage door

JUST £699 inc vat & fitting

Kent on Sunday

May 11, 2014 No 607 www.kentnews.co.uk

Two decades of the tunnel which has changed our lives

FOR those of us of a certain age, it only seems like yesterday that the concept of the Channel Tunnel seemed, pardon the pun, more pipe dream than reality.

It was, after all, only 23 years ago that the 'missing link' of the M20 motorway - linking Maidstone and Ashford - was opened, heralding as it did major construction on the tunnel.

And the scale was remarkable. I grew up in Ashford and the impact was every where. The local cinema was bulldozed, the homes of friends were compulsorily purchased, the edge of the town centre turned into a giant building site and even a popular pub was consumed in the name of progress.

In short, it was a traumatic period for the county and, indeed, for those growing up when the peak of the disruption swept in.

I was far from alone in pondering aloud if all the pain would be worth it in the end. And, it would seem, the jury remains out on just that.

But Kent is a richer place because of it, and the high-speed domestic rail service which comes with it. The speed it brings to linking the county to London and, to a lesser extent the Continent, allows us to knock on a door called opportunity. Not to mention providing an option for cross-Channel transport - although it remains hard to beat the romance and experience of jumping on a ferry.

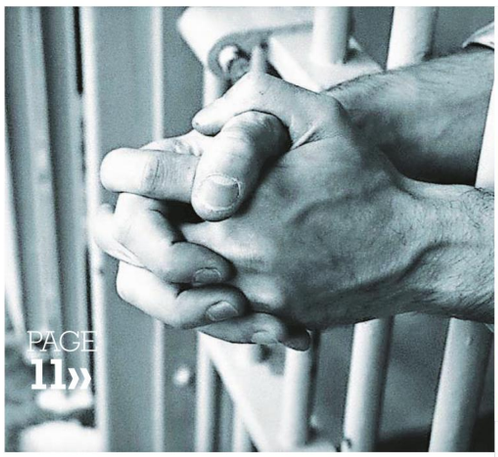
I mention all this because 20 years ago the Channel Tunnel opened and changed everything. We should recognise its contribution and celebrate the remarkable feat of engineering.

Inside we take a look at the history behind the tunnel link and reflect on that historic first journey.

It makes for a fascinating read. Enjoy your weekend.



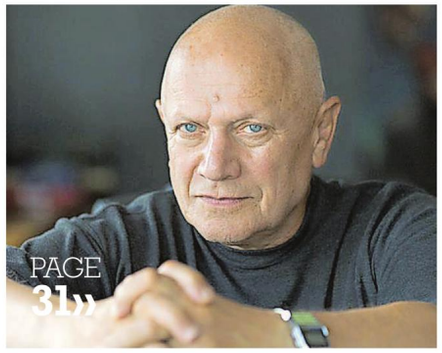
Editor **Chris Britcher**


PAGE 11»


PAGE 22»




PAGE 26 »


PAGE 31»



Contents

News

9 **Airport sale in the wings?**
Manston's owner still silent on £5m offer

11 **Spotlight on penal system**
Just how should inmates be released?

14 **Doctor will see you now**
But will you have to pay for the privilege?

19 **Gravy train or worth it?**
We take a closer look at salaries of MEPs

22 **Win tickets to Leeds Castle**
Free family entry to jousting up for grabs

23 **Water way to try new sport**
Open weekend lets you have a go at sailing

26 **The Channel Tunnel at 20**
Engineering marvel that changed travel

The Arts

31 **The Actor's Lament**
Steven Berkoff lifts lid on life in the theatre

Homes & Gardens

39 **Moving on up special**
Tip and tricks to get best from your garden

Sport

62 **Snooker ace stays positive**
Barry Hawkins on this year's Crucible contest


PAGE 62 »

Plus

Seven days Page 5
Feedback Page 48
Images of Kent Page 49
Driving Page 55
Appointments Page 59

HOW TO CONTACT US...
Publisher: Simon Irwin
Email simon.irwin@archant.co.uk
Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address:
Apple Barn, Smeeth, TN25 6SS
Editorial: News: 01303 817100
Leisure: 01303 817022
Sport: 01303 817177
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Jobs/Notices: 01303 817056:
Business: 01303 817056
Email appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
Retail/Leisure/Motors: 01303 817150
Email sales@kosmedia.co.uk
Distribution: 01303 817072

FOLLOW US ONLINE @
- kentnews.co.uk
- kentnews.co.uk/mobile
- jobsforkent.co.uk
- homes24.co.uk
- drive24.co.uk
- twitter@kosmedia

Published in Kent and printed by Archant Print, division of Archant Community Media Limited (Co Reg No 19300). Registered Office: Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE

ARCHANT Inspiring Communities

THIS SPRING, BRITELITE'S

AS SEEN ON TV

TRIPLE GLAZING



. . . is ready whatever *the weather!*

It saves you energy and money when its cold and keeps you cool when its hot! It looks good . . . and keeps your house secure too!

A Britelite window is the most beautiful addition you can make to your home, and what's more, we fit Triple Glazing as standard. Britelite windows will add value to your property when the time comes to sell. With an enormous range of colours, styles, shapes and sizes to choose from, a Britelite window will perfectly complement your home.

Some kind words . . . Received from our customers last month

"The work was carried out on time and efficiently by very friendly staff."
Mrs Bullock, Sidcup

"I know it was a while ago now, but the job was done in a very quick and professional manner." **Mr Dickinson, London**

"Clean and considerate, the fitter worked all day without a break, a pleasure to have in our home and finished the job on time."
Mr Cooper, Sandwich

"Telesales staff, a pleasure to deal with, fitters have been pleasant and helpful. Can't fault the workmanship, cleaned up and tidied as they went along. Proper job." **Mrs Hichens, Maidstone**

"What was good with the sales representative was the fact he gave us no rubbish "I'm going to ring my manager". We will come back for that alone. The fitting team were professional and polite and got on with the job." **Mrs Boylett, Sussex**

"Fitters were courteous and helpful, answered any questions or queries, kept site as clean and tidy as possible. Many thanks for a good service." **Mrs Murphy, Maidstone**

"Fantastic product, high quality finish, fitters very professional, very tidy. It has transformed our house, should have replaced our tired conservatory years ago. Would highly recommend to everyone. Thank you". **Mr Poulter, Sittingbourne**

BRITELITE
Windows, Doors & Conservatories

Showrooms throughout the South East

Call Free 0800 50 50 70

Visit our website for a FREE online quote

www.britelitewindows.co.uk

seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Guilty: Jury convicts duo who killed grandmother

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk





TRAGEDY: Harjit Chaggar (left) was last spotted on CCTV cameras (right) just before she met her doom

TWO men have been found guilty of murdering a Chatham grandmother and then dumping her body beneath the floorboards of a shop they worked at in Chatham.

The family of Harjit Chaggar, 69, had launched an appeal after her disappearance following a trip to the shops.

A motive for her killing has still not yet been established – although it is thought robbery may be at its root.

Mohammad Islam, 28, of Windmill Street, Gillingham, and Murshed Miah, 38, of Wheeler Street, Maidstone, were found guilty by a jury of murder at Canterbury Crown Court on Thursday.

Islam and Miah, along with Abdul Hannan, 44, of Aldon Close, Maidstone, and Rasad Miah, 27, of Otway Street, Chatham, were also found guilty of preventing the lawful burial or cremation of a corpse.

The court heard how on the afternoon of Monday, September 2, Mrs Chaggar visited Magpie Hall Road in Chatham to run several errands. She visited her doctor's surgery and then went to Luton Road to buy groceries.

She is then spotted on CCTV being beckoned into the back of the Sani Globe Food shop by a man wearing a white coat and apron. It was the last time she was seen alive.

After she failed to return home, relatives raised the alarm and a missing person's appeal was launched.

On September 14, Murshed Miah, an employee of Sani Globe Food, called police to report the discovery of a body under the floorboards of the property's cellar. Mrs Chaggar's body had been dumped under a trapdoor.

Post-mortem results found she had sustained fatal injuries to her head, neck and back and estimated she died within 24 hours of her last sighting.

Following the verdicts, Harjit Chaggar's son Kuldish Chaggar said: "The shock of losing our mother will never leave us.

"We pray that she is now at peace and can give us the strength to carry on without her no matter what obstacles are placed in our way, for none can be bigger than losing her."

Detective Superintendent Rob Vinson said: "We may never know why these men killed Mrs Chaggar, but I hope the verdict goes some way to providing her family and friends some closure."

Sentencing will take place in due course.

Hospice confirms it is set to close popular city centre in-patient site

THE Pilgrims Hospice has confirmed it is to close its in-patient care centre in Canterbury.

One of the main providers of palliative care in the county, offering expert care to people at the end of their lives, it says the move will not swing into force until at least 2016.

At that point it will continue to offer an in-home service instead.

The charity's other sites in Ashford and Margate will continue to operate as normal.

The decision comes as the organisation continues an on-going review of the services it offers as it moves into the future.

Its site in Canterbury, on London Road, has long served the community. Among those who lived and died there were former Northern Ireland secretary Mo Mowlem and the actor Peter Cushing.

Bosses say it was selected for closure as it was the "oldest and least practical" of its three main sites – the other two both being purpose-built facilities.

A spokesman explained: "The buildings at Canterbury are becoming unsuitable for providing high standards of health care.

"It is not an option to do nothing as that would stop us providing better, more responsive and accessible care to more people.

"We are not planning to remove in-patient care from Canterbury altogether – patients from Canterbury who require in-patient care will continue to have access to it at both the Ashford and Thanet sites and the plans for partnerships with other organisations to provide in-patient care are part of an ongoing piece of work over the coming two years, for which consultation has already been ongoing for the past year."

Chief executive Steve Auty added: "We want to focus on our core responsibility of providing expert palliative and end-of-life care. By 2016 we aim to provide more of our care in the community and at bedsides in hospital and care homes."

Many left high and dry after water main springs a leak

THOUSANDS of homes were left without water and a school was forced to close after a burst water main in Canterbury in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

At the peak of the problem, some 24,000 properties in and around the city had either no water or low pressure.

The burst occurred at 4am on a water main and was found less than an hour later within a wooded area off Whitehall Road.

Engineers worked to resolve the problem and supplies were restored to all but six properties within a few hours.

The pipeline was fully fixed and the water main back in service at 11.40pm on Wednesday night.

A spokesman for South East Water said: ''I would like to thank all those affected by loss of water or low pressure for their patience.''

Gang who clubbed ex-friend to death jailed for 76 years

FOUR men have been jailed for a total of 76 years for murdering a former friend on Sheppey.

Mark Terry, 44, his son Matthew Terry, 21, Christopher Bones, 21, and Ritchie Zborowski, 16, lured Gary Pocock to a secluded beach in Leysdown and beat him to death with two baseball bats, breaking one of them.

Zborowski was just 15 at the time.

They were found guilty of killing the 34-year-old, from Essex, last month after a 10-week trial and sentenced to life in prison at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday.

Mark Terry will serve a minimum of 26 years, Matthew Terry a minimum of 19 years, Zborowski a minimum of 13 years and Bones a minimum of 18 years.

» Download your free **Kent News iPhone** and **iPad App** available at the Apple App Store

» Follow us on Twitter **@kosmedia** or Facebook **KOS Media**

seven days

Stories which made the headlines **@kentnews.co.uk** during the past week

Bank confirms two branches to close in August

NATWEST confirmed this week it was pulling the plug at two of its Kent branches due to a dip in the number of customers coming into them as opposed to using the internet or smartphone apps.

It said it had made the "difficult decision" to close both the Barming and Pembury branches for the final time on August 1.

A spokesman said: "The number of customers using these branches has dropped by more than a fifth over the last few years as more and more of them use alternative ways of banking with us.

"Over our whole branch network there has been a 30 per cent drop in branch transactions since 2010."

Deals will be in place with local post office branches in both villages to offer some financial services for displaced customers.

£2bn Paramount Park is on track for 2019 opening as it secures special status

By Maria Chiorando
maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

PLANS for the multi-billion-pound Paramount theme park have taken a giant stride forward with the securing of a special government status.

The scheme, now being termed London Paramount, will be considered under the new Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) planning regime.

In short, it should mean the planning process can be accelerated, with permission granted directly by Eric Pickles rather than the local authorities.

It has the support of both Dartford and Gravesham councils and Kent County Council.

The park is being driven forward by London Resort Company Holdings. It has secured a licence deal with the Paramount movie studio that will allow it to brand the park using a number of hit blockbuster films.

Costing £2 billion, if built, it will create some 27,000 jobs on what is currently a disused cement factory on the Swanscombe peninsula.



PLANS: How park could look

Now, with the planning process accelerated, a public consultation is expected to take place before the end of the year. And that means the park could be open as early as 2019.

Fenlon Dunphy, on behalf of LRCH, said: "This decision reflects the unique economic and regenerative opportunity provided by this multi-billion-pound project, which will employ thousands of people and be a huge additional offering to the UK's entertainment and tourism industries.

"It also allows us to deal concurrently with all the planning and regulatory requirements, therefore providing greater certainty over the planning and regulatory timeline for the project, which will help us to meet our objective of opening the resort in the first half of 2019."

Paul Carter, leader of Kent County Council, said: "London Paramount is a transformative project that could generate significant inward investment across Kent.

"KCC will continue to work with LRCH and the relevant borough councils to ensure the region maximises this unique development opportunity."



VOICE: Maggie Doyle

Maggie is new Radio Kent breakfast host

BBC Radio Kent has confirmed that Irish presenter Maggie Doyle is to become the new co-host of the station's breakfast show.

She will join John Warnett on the show and replaces Clare McDonnell, who left the station at the end of March.

Already a familiar voice with listeners – she has been acting as occasional stand-in since Ms McDonnell's departure – she previously co-presented an award-winning breakfast show on Absolute Radio.

The new-look show on Radio Kent will start on May 26.

Co-presenter John Warnett said: "Maggie is sharp, funny and incisive. I'm looking forward to a long and productive partnership."

BBC Radio Kent's editor Gordon Davidson added: "She is an excellent journalist and the chemistry between her and John Warnett is fantastic."

Ms Doyle said: "I couldn't be more excited to start my BBC presenting career with such a great team. I look forward to working alongside John Warnett – and making the best breakfast radio with him!"

Ms McDonnell left last month after increasingly filling in on BBC Radio 5 Live's national breakfast show, which is based in Salford, Manchester.

Leeds Castle CEO to step down in October

THE chief executive of one of the county's major tourist venues, Leeds Castle, has announced she is to quit.

Victoria Wallace has been responsible for the management of the venue for 10 years.

But on Friday she confirmed she would be stepping down to take up another position in October.

Mrs Wallace said: "It has been the most wonderful experience and I am so grateful to the charity's trustees for putting their faith in me.

"They've given me and the team the opportunity to make this fantastic place more accessible to visitors, closer to the community, more vibrant and proud of both its glorious past and its exciting and inspiring future."

The chairman of the Leeds Castle Foundation, Niall Dickson, said: "She has been an inspiring leader who has worked with our wonderful staff to create a fantastic experience for the hundreds of thousands of visitors who come here every year."

Shiner dazzles as she secures top cop job

KENT Police has confirmed Jo Shiner is to be its new Assistant Chief Constable for central operations.

Chief Superintendent Shiner had been serving with Norfolk Constabulary.

Kent Police Chief Constable Alan Pughsley said: "Her experience will be invaluable and I know that all the officers and staff of the force will welcome this appointment and offer their support to her.'

Mrs Shiner, 42, has served with the police for 21 years since joining as a student officer in 1993.

She will be responsible for a portfolio in Kent that includes critical incidents, initial crime investigations, special branch, frontier operations and roads policing.

Ann Barnes, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, said: "I am convinced Chief Superintendent Shiner will be an asset to Kent Police and will be a real role model to those aspiring to reach a chief officer rank."

School head meets minister over funding

THE head-teacher at a leading Canterbury grammar school has met schools minister David Laws in a bid to secure funding to allow for a host of improvements to its current site.

Jane Robinson, head of Simon Langton Girls' Grammar, was joined by local MP Julian Brazier at the meeting this week in a bid to state its claim to a slice of a £2bn funding programme, the Priority School Building Programme.

The Conservative Mr Brazier said: "The minister agreed to see us before we put the bid in.

"Unlike the last bidding round, this round will consider plans which involve a combination of replacing some buildings and refurbishing others, rather than focusing exclusively on new-build.

"Clearly, this preliminary meeting was not going to lead to any firm commitment, but we had a frank and useful exchange with the minister and I shall be taking a very close interest in this bid as it develops."

» Download your free **Kent News iPhone** and **iPad App** available at the Apple App Store

» Follow us on Twitter **@kosmedia** or Facebook **KOS Media**

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Will last-minute deal rescue stricken airport?

MANSTON Airport will close on Thursday – unless a last-gasp deal can be struck with owner Ann Gloag.

And it means up to 150 members of staff – many of them part-time – will be out of a job.

A verbal and written offer of £5 million was rejected last weekend by Mrs Gloag, the millionaire business woman who made her fortune after being a co-founder of the Stagecoach empire.

However, the American investment firm that made the bid, RiverOak, has spent the week trying to re-open negotiations in a bid to secure a deal.

The airport was bought by Mrs Gloag for £1 in October. However, hoped-for deals with the likes of



Ryanair and BA fell through, leaving her unable to plot a route to profitability.

For the full update on Manston and details of the rejected bid, turn to page 9.

Tourism boost with £10 cheap-day train tickets

FOUR towns are hoping for a boost in trade, with the latest deal from Southeastern offering cut-price journeys from London.

The deal will allow passengers from any London terminal to travel to either Broadstairs, Rochester, Ramsgate or Whitstable for £10 return.

It covers travel on any off-peak service during the week or at weekends and is valid until May 26. Tickets have to be booked in advance online.

Michelle Ulyatt, at the rail firm, said: "We work extensively with Visit Kent and local tourism agencies to promote the area."

Later this year it promises cheap tickets from the Kent coast into London.

...also

Mayor elections due

TONBRIDGE and Malling Borough Council will elect is new mayor and deputy on Tuesday.

The election of the prestigious roles will take place prior to a meeting at the Kings Hill offices. Mayor elect is Sasha Luck, who will replace Howard Rogers.

Methods to ease strain

KENT County Council is supporting Mental Health Awareness Week, which stretches from Monday to Sunday.

The authority says Six Ways to Wellbeing will help those under mental strain to alleviate some concerns thorough simple methods. See sixwaystowellbeing.org.uk.

Dying to talk taboo

DYING Matters Week starts on Monday, with the NHS urging people to talk about one of the great taboo topics.

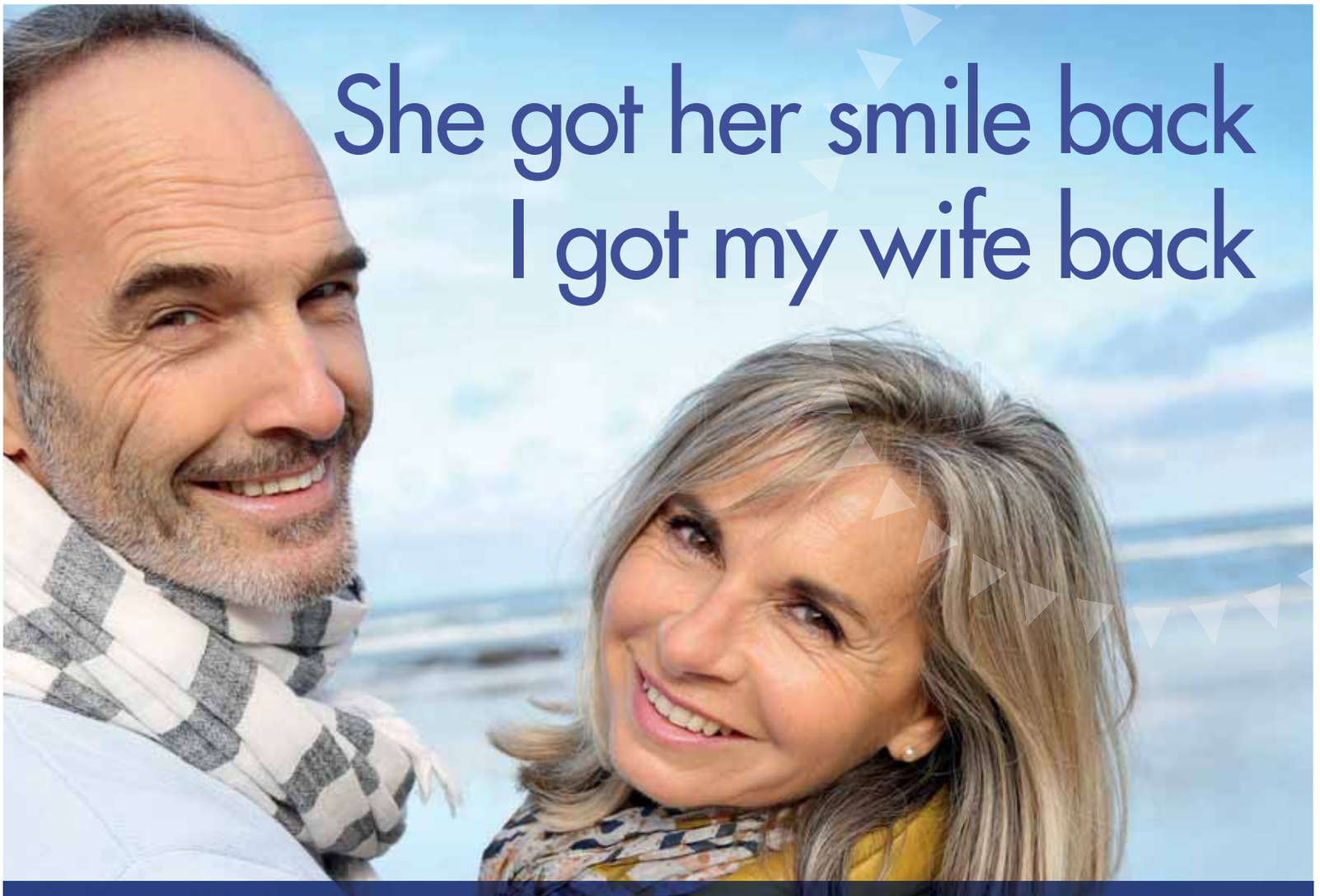
Dr Bruno Capone at the NHS West Kent CCG said: "Thinking about the type of care you'd like, to be buried or cremated, will help ensure your wishes are fulfilled."

Food at the Pantiles

THOUSANDS are set to flock to the Pantiles Food Festival in Tunbridge Wells next weekend.

The two-day event will see more than 40 stalls selling food and drink as well as demonstrations from a host of local chefs. Last year's event pulled in 10,000 people.





She got her smile back I got my wife back

Dental implants over 40% less… why pay more?

A smile is something you shouldn't have to compromise.

Our dental implants typically cost over 40% less than other implant services, so if you've had an expensive quote and would like to compare us, call today to arrange a free consultation.

At the New Tooth Company, we have developed a full range of services thanks to experienced clinicians, the very latest technology and our state-of-the-art clinic.

If you've lost confidence in your loose dentures, or live with the discomfort of failing teeth, we can help. Our Smile-in-a-Day package allows full upper or lower jaw implants in a single day.

Every day we help restore smiles and give patients a new lease of life. Let us do the same for you.

The New Tooth COMPANY

DENTAL IMPLANT CENTRES

CALL NOW OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO BOOK YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

Phone: **01622 630700** **www.thenewtooth.co**

Going, going, gone? Manston owner stays silent on airport's future despite £5 million offer

As deadline day for Thanet airport's closure looms, **Maria Chiorando** reports on mystery over buyout

WHEN multimillionaire businesswoman Ann Gloag took control of Manston Airport just a little over six months ago she was hailed as its potential saviour.

This week her halo was rapidly turning into horns as mounting criticism built over her handling of the Thanet airfield, her plans for the site and her steadfast refusal to make any sort of public comment.

Last month she confirmed her intention to shut the airport. This week it was confirmed the gates would shut for the final time on May 15.

But the political movements behind the scenes have been frantic.

An American investment firm raised hopes when it made a bid worth £5 million last weekend – but it was rejected just days later.

A statement for the airport's owners stated: "There are a number of reasons for this [rejection], including the fact some of those associated with the offer have approached the shareholders previously and have consistently failed to substantiate their proposals.

"We have clearly demonstrated our willingness to consider credible and viable offers and have engaged with a range of interested parties over the last couple of months which unfortunately have not come to fruition."

RiverOak Investment Corps, from Stamford, Connecticut, has spent the week talking to the Press and claiming it wants to reopen negotiations with Mrs Gloag but claims its calls were not being returned.

Mrs Gloag, meanwhile, who is currently in America, continues to remain publicly silent on the issue, insisting, via her spokesman, that she prefers to do her talking via her business deals.

Now 71, she made her fortune by creating the Stagecoach transport empire with her brother.

It's the Manston business deal, however, that the Thanet community wants reassurances on – not least for the 150 staff who will find themselves out of a job on Thursday unless a fresh bid is received and accepted.

The Unite union said it was "shocked and very angry" at the rejection of the bid and said it had "lodged a formal grievance with the owners over what we believe is a complete failure to consult with the unions over this bizarre decision".

The airport has been operating at a reported loss of £10,000 a day.

Mrs Gloag's hopes of turning its fortunes around by securing deals with Ryanair for passenger flights, and British Airways for freight, both fell through, leaving her unable to plot a path to profitability in the short term – prompting her decision to call time on the venture.



UP IN THE AIR: Ann Gloag, above, has received an offer to buy Manston from American investment firm RiverOak

The airport's supporters, however, insist it still has a future, despite repeated problems at making it a viable, profitable concern since the RAF moved out in 1989.

However, RiverOak is determined to lever the airfield out of Mrs Gloag's grasp, insisting the size of its bid more than covered the investment made thus far by the businesswoman.

She bought the site for a token £1 from New Zealand airport-owner Infratil in October. The company had been waiting for more than a year to offload the site as part of a reorganisation of its portfolio.

Mrs Gloag took it over and picked up the tab for some £350,000 of debt built up between the agreement to buy and when she signed on the dotted line.

> **"There was a serious offer on the table, and I wouldn't have expected that the first offer would be accepted, but I would have expected negotiations to start"**
>
> **Sir Roger Gale,** MP for Thanet North, who wants Manston saved

She hired proven airport turnaround specialist Alastair Welch to come in and plot Manston's revival but now finds herself with the same problems faced by all other operators – being unable to work out how Manston could balance the books.

Sir Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North, has remained the most vocal commentator on the airport and is determined to protect the site as a key cog in east Kent's economic revival.

He told KoS: "There was a serious offer on the table, and I wouldn't have expected that the first offer would be accepted, but I would have expected negotiations to start.

"The unfortunate thing is that I think Mrs Gloag was abroad, communicating through her people, but sometimes personal communications are better.

"If she had been appraised fully of the people behind the bid, then she might have taken a rather different view.

"They are impressive people. I have no reason to doubt that they can deliver what they say and they clearly have the assets.

"You would accept that given a willing seller, and a willing buyer, there should be no argument except about price. And that is negotiation."

Sir Roger has had what few others have in this situation – a face-to-face conversation with Mrs Gloag several weeks ago in London.

He emerged convinced she was prepared to sell rather than, as some have speculated, was planning to cash in by shutting the airport and selling it instead to developers. It has led some to ponder whether her pride is at stake; of potentially seeing a new owner come in, take over the site and make it a success where she was swift to wave the white flag.

But without making public comment, trying to establish Mrs Gloag's thinking remains open to speculation.

RiverOak has some US$350m of assets in its investment portfolio and has experience in aviation and turning round a cargo hub, as evidenced by a similar project in Texas.

RiverOak told KoS its plans were to focus on the freight aspect of the airport, alongside aviation engineering, namely aircraft maintenance.

This would create a number of engineering jobs.

They did not rule out passenger flights in the long run but felt that due to the loss of Dutch operator KLM these flights would not be feasible in the short term.

KLM had been running a daily shuttle service to Amersterdam's Schiphol airport but, amid concerns over the airport's future, pulled the plug on all flights last month.

To add salt to Manston's wound, it declared it would not consider a return to the airport even if a new owner came in to secure its future.

Spokesman Tony Freudmann for RiverOak told KoS: "There is huge cargo potential. And I would like to point out that it does not include night flights."

Sir Roger said that, despite its long-running problems, the airport could still deliver.

"I'm absolutely certain it's a potentially viable business," he said.

"I met RiverOak last week and discussed what they wanted to do with it.

"They want to turn it into a cargo hub and they believe they can do it. They've got the expertise, they've got the experience.

"What I'm trying to do now is take a pace back from it and encourage everyone else to do the same, on both sides.

"I'd like to know that the chief executive of RiverOak and Ann Gloag are talking directly to each other because I think this is the only way this is going to get resolved, and I would hope it might still be possible for a deal to be struck.

"It really does not need to be done with interference from you, the Press, and me a politician.

"I think Ann Gloag's management team and Tony Freudmann and his team are getting in the way. The time has come when these people have to strike a deal or not."

Sir Roger, it should be said, was the one who released details of the bid and then circulated details of the RiverOak bid to the local media. But as public pressure builds, he is clearly anxious to ensure the pressure does not become so intense it derails any deal.

Geoffrey Illsley is vice-chairman and founding member of Why not Manston?

It is a campaign group set up almost two years ago to try to save the airport. He is among a growing number of observers who are becoming increasingly frustrated by what they see as the collapse of an airport so often touted as the area's catalyst for regeneration.

Mr Illsley said: "It seems inexplicable and absurd, unless she [Mrs Gloag] has a secret agenda. It's not logical.

"She's given these trumped-up, lame excuses that she doesn't find the offers viable.

"It's not up to her to say that kind of thing. It's an offer or it isn't. I think she's hell-bent on closing the place.

"But if she does, she'll have to live with herself."

Sir Roger Gale, however, remains confident.

He said: "When I met Ann Gloag in the House of Commons, she said to me in front of people 'I want to sell the airport'. I take that at face value."

■ **What do you think about Manston? Join the debate. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**



LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL US NOW

www.needextraspace.co.uk 0845 4599444

FIVE DISPLAY VILLAGES ACROSS KENT

Johnsons Nursery,
Old Thanet Way,
Chestfield,
Kent,
CT5 3JD
01227 793717
chestfield@
needextraspace.co.uk

Polhill Garden Centre,
London Road, Halstead,
Sevenoaks,
Kent, TN14 7AD
Car Park B
01959 533466
polhill@
needextraspace.co.uk

Newnham Court
Shopping Village,
Bearstead Rd, Maidstone,
Kent, ME14 5LH
at rear of Notcutts
01622 730777
maidstone@
needextraspace.co.uk

Bybrook Barn
Garden Centre,
Canterbury Road,
Ashford, Kent,
TN24 9JZ
01233 878412
ashford@
needextraspace.co.uk

Elm Court Garden Centre,
Capstone Road,
Gillingham,
Kent,
ME7 3JQ
01634 405859
gillingham@
needextraspace.co.uk



Minister vows to conduct full review into 'on licence' release

Events this week have cast the spotlight onto the way prisoners are reintegrated back into society, even if they have been given an original life sentence. **Sarah Linney** explains how the current system works

THE furore around Michael Wheatley – whose failure to return to an open prison on Sheppey this week sparked a flurry of headlines – has once again put the spotlight on how those in jail are dealt with ahead of their reintroduction into society.

The 55-year-old sparked a major police hunt when he failed to return to Standford Hill while out on licence, before he was re-arrested on Wednesday.

But while the circumstances surrounding his arrest this week continue to form part of a fresh police investigation (see p12), questions are being asked as to how prisoners are handled and re-introduced into society when they become eligible for consideration for parole and release

At its heart remains the debate as to whether prison should be a place of rehabilitation or simply punishment.

The government has described the system as "too lax" and has now promised tougher assessments and electronic tags for prisoners who are to be let out on licence.

The terms of the licence on which Michael Wheatley was on have not been confirmed.

Prisons Minister Jeremy Wright said: "We are not prepared to see public safety compromised. The system has been too lax up to now and we are changing that.

"In future when prisoners are let out on temporary licence they will be tagged, more strictly risk-assessed and tested in the community under strict conditions before being released.

"There will now be much tighter rules about who is eligible. Prisoners will only be allowed out for a specific purpose, such as gaining work experience. Temporary release can be an important tool in helping offenders reintegrate, but it should not be an automatic right.

"There will be a full review of this case, which will look at the process for releasing prisoners on temporary licence."

A Ministry of Justice statement said prisoners would have to earn the right to be released on licence by demonstrating "the right behaviour" and "a commitment to change".

"They will need a very clear case as to how temporary release will support their rehabilitation and help them turn their backs on crime," the statement added.

"There will also be a more consistent and robust response for prisoners who fail to comply with their licence.

"For prisoners with a history of serious crimes, there will be a new 'restricted' level in the autumn where they will undergo stringent risk assessments by probation and other professionals, and be subject to more robust monitoring arrangements."

However, statistics show that releasing prisoners on licence – a decision made by the prison governor – in general works incredibly well.

Less than one per cent of prisoners fail to comply with conditions, and in 2012 just five in every 100,000 prisoners were arrested for committing a further offence while on licence (see page 12 for full definition of what release 'on licence' involves).

When deciding whether to release prisoners on licence, governors must consider if there is an unacceptable risk of the prisoner causing harm, re-offending or absconding.

Some 485,000 prisoners were released on licence in 2012.

What has raised concerns is the possibility of prisoners given significant original sentences being able to benefit from the progressive freedoms offered at open jails.

In some cases, those receiving life sentences are finding themselves allowed to be released on licence as part of their progress to returning to normal life once more.

Gordon Henderson, the MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, told Kent on Sunday: "I am concerned if a prisoner who has been given an original life sentence can have a sentence for less than 10 years.

"There are questions to be asked as to how that could come about and how they would then be able to be given day release.

"I am glad that the justice secretary has initiated an investigation."

Peter Cuthbertson, director of the Centre for Crime Prevention, said: "Tougher sentences stop the prisoner committing crimes outside prison, and the longer the sentence is, the lower the reoffending rate."

The centre says it makes the case for zero tolerance policing and tougher sentencing while representing victims and potential victims of crime.

Minister for justice and prisons, and MP for Ashford, Damian Green said the government would toughen the guidelines governing the transfer of inmates to open prisons.

"Many of us share the concern at people absconding," Mr Green said.

"We are already in the process of making the conditions for those sent to open prisons tougher, both in terms of those qualifying to go to open prisons and also the punishments for those who break the terms."

However, Glenn Gathercole, busi-

PAGE 12 »

« PAGE 11

iness development manager at the Parole Board for England and Wales, said a decision to move a prisoner to an open prison was not taken lightly.

Prisoners are assessed by the board, which makes a recommendation, and the final decision is made by the Secretary of State.

"We make a risk assessment based on the information provided to us and there would have been a big dossier," Mr Gathercole said.

"We would hear from probation; witnesses would make an assessment; there would be psychology reports and psychiatric reports and the prisoner would have a face-to-face interview before the panel.

"The decision on Mr Wheatley was made last August; anything can happen in that time."

Prisoners who have been given indeterminate sentences – such as murderers and sex abusers – are given a minimum sentence by the court.

They can only be recommended for release, or transfer to an open prison, by the parole board once that time has been served.

Under the European Convention on Human Rights, these prisoners must be reviewed every two years.

"There are lots of prisoners who go on to be rehabilitated. There are different types of treatment and courses they can do," Mr Gathercole added.

"You can't assume that just because a person has committed a crime, they won't be able to change their ways and reach the point where they can be integrated into society.

"It's only the failures that get reported on."

It could be argued that jail should be jail, with no half measures. Either you're safe to be released, or you're not.

But, Mr Gathercole explains, it isn't that simple. Prisoners can become institutionalised and lose touch with what life on the outside is like, and a halfway house is exactly what is needed, he says.

"If you release someone from a closed prison straight into the community, there is no gradual reintegration into society," he explained.

"They are not used to making their own decisions or living their own life. They need to adjust to life back outside."

He said making release from prison a gradual process not only made it easier for the prisoner to reintegrate but allowed the prison service to test whether they could actually be trusted.

"When prisoners transfer to open conditions they are being tested in less secure conditions. There have been several cases that have showed that this a vital testing ground, as opposed to just letting them out," Mr Gathercole explained.

"This allowed us to test Mr Wheatley. If we had released him straight into the community, he would be out there and it would be more difficult to control him. Now, he will almost certainly be returned to closed conditions. No one wants him to commit a further offence."

Mr Henderson agreed. "Having prisons which allow prisoners an element of freedom allows them to rehabilitate so they are less likely to reoffend," he said.

"There are prisoners on Sheppey who are commuting to London to work every day; some are given leave to return to their homes at weekends.

"That is part of getting them back into society, and you don't want to do anything to prevent that."

In no way did this mean that prison should be easy, Mr Henderson says.

"I am a great believer that, first and foremost, prison is there to punish people who transgress. We should have a firm regime and sentences should be long enough to act as a deterrent," he said.

"But at the same time, everybody has a vested interest in ensuring that prisoners don't reoffend – which they are more likely to do than someone on the outside.

"Education and rehabilitation are crucial in prison. We have to stop that revolving door and try to rehabilitate people who go into prison ill-educated, or without the skills to hold down a job, and who don't have any reason not to reoffend.

"We are not being soft on prisoners, we are being sensible, and trying to ensure that people are protected from them when they are released."

He said he had "nothing but admiration" for the good work that Standford Hill prison did.

"We have, over the years, seen large numbers of the inmates coming into the community, and helping in the community," Mr Henderson added.

"Most people are at Standford Hill for about three to six months.

"The transfer is not part of their punishment, it is part of their rehabilitation.

"We have murderers all the time transferring to Standford Hill, but you don't hear about them and there is no need to.

"We have often seen, and still will always see, some of those people who are on day release abscond. But I don't think the absconding of one person like this should detract from the excellent work being done in our open prison."

Standford Hill prison declined to comment.

> **"You can't assume just because a person has committed a crime, they won't be able to change their ways and be integrated into society"**
>
> **Glenn Gathercole,** Parole board for England and Wales



ASHFORD MP: Damian Green

WHAT DOES RELEASE 'ON LICENCE' MEAN?

SOME prisoners are released from prison 'on licence'.

This means that although they are not serving their sentence in prison they are still required to adhere to certain conditions while serving the remaining part of their sentence in the community.

Time spent 'on licence' in the community is supervised by the Probation Service.

There are six standard conditions for prisoners serving determinate sentences, *ie* a custodial sentence with a fixed length. And for those on indeterminate sentences – such as life terms – there is an additional condition.

It is: 'He/she shall be well behaved and not do anything which could undermine the purposes of supervision on licence which are to protect the public, by ensuring that their safety would not be placed at risk, and to secure his/her successful reintegration into the community.'

The other key conditions are:

- Behave appropriately and not commit further offences or undertake any activity that may undermine their attempts to resettle in the community.
- Maintain contact with their supervising probation officer and do what is asked of them.
- Allow their supervising probation officer to visit them at home if they need to do so.
- Live at an address approved by their probation officer and keep them informed of any changes of address (even if only for one night).
- Only do work, paid or unpaid, that has been approved by their probation officer and keep them notified of any changes in employment.
- Not travel outside of the United Kingdom.

There are a host of other conditions that can be imposed – these include respecting curfews, being supervised, avoiding certain areas or behaviours, and regular drug-testing.

The prisoner will get a copy of their licence before they leave the prison. The licence will tell them all the conditions they must meet and will inform them of when they should report to the probation office managing their licence.

If an offender breaks the terms and conditions of their licence, then they may be recalled to prison immediately, or depending on the circumstances, the offender might get a warning the first or second time they break the conditions of their licence. If the offender breaches their licence for a third time, they will be recalled to prison.

Prisoners sentenced to life will be on licence for the rest of their life.

Source: Offenders' Families Helpline



JUST WHAT IS AN 'OPEN PRISON'?

OPEN prisons house adult prisoners whose risk of absconding is considered to be low or who are of little risk to the public because of the nature of their offence.

Open prisons also house long-term prisoners who are coming towards the end of their sentence and who have gradually worked their way down the categories.

Open prisons are part of the resettlement programme to reintegrate prisoners back into society.

While open prisons may have some workshop facilities, some of the prisoners will work in the community, returning to the prison in the evening.

Source: Ministry of Justice



NTW

Wheatley appears in court on armed robbery charges

MICHAEL Wheatley appeared in court on Friday charged with committing an armed robbery while on the run from prison.

The 55-year-old is charged with robbing the Chelsea Building Society in Sunbury-on-Thames on Wednesday, possessing an imitation firearm and being unlawfully at large.

He was remanded in custody by Redhill Magistrates' Court and will next appear at Guildford Crown Court on May 29.

Kevin Perry, 53, of West India Dock Road in east London, has been charged with assisting an offender, perverting the course of justice and handling stolen goods.

Established 1981
SupaGlazing Limited
Over 55,000 customers!

Introducing the...
Supa Diamond
A rated, **ANY** size, **ANY** number of openers, White UPVC

DOUBLE GLAZED

4	WINDOWS	£1,512.00 inc VAT
5	WINDOWS	£1,890.00 inc VAT
6	WINDOWS	£2,268.00 inc VAT
7	WINDOWS	£2,646.00 inc VAT

TRIPLE GLAZED

4	WINDOWS	£1,891.00 inc VAT
5	WINDOWS	£2,364.00 inc VAT
6	WINDOWS	£2,836.00 inc VAT
7	WINDOWS	£3,309.00 inc VAT

All inclusive of fitting, survey, guarantee & includes Pilkington Energikare saving glass. Did you know triple glazing only saves an extra 0.5% on average which is about £3 per year.

The choice is yours!



A Rated Windows
Pilkington **Optiwhite**™ (outer pane)
Argon gas filling with warm edge spacer
Pilkington **K Glass**™ **OW** (inner pane)
A Rated Windows

Our Sale Now On!
...Kent's leading double glazing manufacturer

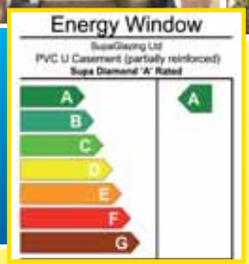


15% OFF ALL Conservatories & Orangeries

Celebrating over 33 years of beautiful windows... Guaranteed
Finance available subject to status, written quotations available on request.







Don't just glaze it, Supaglaze it!
All of our installers are CRB checked.

Hurry! Offers end 27th May

Knight Road, Strood (opposite Morrisons)
01634 294 696 Open 6 days a week Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm
2 Roman Square, Sittingbourne
13 Lowfield Street, Dartford
01795 422 877
01322 290 525

AS HEARD ON heart 103.1 102.3 MasterCard VISA FENSA REGISTERED COMPANY

Profile: BS7950 BS7413
Door Lock: BS3621
Toughened Glass: BSEN12150-1

Factory awarded British Safety Council Safety Award: Every Year Since 1984

Head office and factories at Deacon Trading Centre, Knight Road, Strood.

www.supaglazing.com

International Safety Awards 2011 WINNER

54853

Mercedes-Benz



Sparshatts of Kent is delighted to announce that it is now able to offer class 4, 5 and 7 MOT at it's depots in Ashford & Sittingbourne:

Sparshatts of Kent Ltd

Leacon Road, Brookfield Industrial Estate
Ashford, Kent TN23 4TU
Unit 10, Eurolink Industrial Estate
ME10 3RN Sittingbourne

For more information and to book your MOT,

PLEASE CALL THE ASHFORD DEPOT DIRECTLY ON: 01233 610400 OR SITTINGBOURNE: 01795 479571

GPs to debate patients paying for treatment as service now 'unsustainable in current form'

With spiralling costs and increasing workloads, our GPs are under pressure to continue a service many take for granted. But a radical plan to charge to see your doctor has divided opinion at both a political and medical level, as **Chris Murphy** discovered.

A MEDICAL conference will this month reignite the debate about introducing charges to book a doctor's appointment at your local surgery.

General practitioners (GPs) say they are coming under increasing financial pressures and workloads are soaring as more of us seek medical advice while the number of missed appointments are costing them money.

It is estimated that patients failing to turn up is costing the service £160 million a year.

But the solution to that could be introducing a charge – with costs per visit ranging between £5 and £25.

However, the proposal has been greeted with scorn by politicians and GPs in the county who haved dismissed the idea, saying it would undermine a "fundamental principle of the National Health Service (NHS); namely that it is free to access at the point of service".

The issue will be discussed at the Local Medical Committees (LMCs) Conference, which takes place in York on May 22-23.

LMCs act as the democratically-elected voice of GPs around the country, with its committee comprising GPs elected by local GPs.

They feed into the General Practioners' Council (GPC), which represents all GPs in the UK, which in turn feeds into the British Medical Association (BMA).

A motion proposed by the LMC in Wiltshire suggests "exploring national charging for GP services".

That proposal worryingly suggests general practice is "unsustainable in its current format" and that "it is no longer viable for general practice to provide all patients with all NHS services free at the point of delivery".

It is not proposing a figure but says it simply wants to reopen the debate.

Kent's Local Medical Committee, based at Harrietsham, had no one available to comment on the proposal, but there were plenty of others lining up to have their say after the news was revealed by medical-trade title Pulse Today.

Last year it quizzed some 440 GPs across the UK and found just over half were in favour of introducing a small fee for routine appointments.

Many said they believed it was the only way of managing their workload and curbing rising patient demand.

The move comes as it is also revealed that many surgeries are in financial trouble, with rising utility bills and other costs putting them in jeopardy of closing.

Daniel Tremain is a medical accountant at Williams Giles in Sittingbourne, representing dozens of doctors.

He told us that doctors charging patients will be a no-go from the outset.

Mr Tremain said: "A funding cap on doctors means practices are struggling.

"I think this is what is increasing the retirement of GPs at the moment, because the job is becoming more and more difficult.

"I am finding practices are finding it difficult to actually recruit partners because more and more GPs would rather just be a salaried GP.

"I think it's perfectly proper for GPs to have such a debate. However, any decision about charging patients to see a doctor is not for them to make, but for the Government"

Gordon Henderson,
MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey



PROPOSALS GOING TO LMC CONFERENCE

(i) Believes that general practice is unsustainable in its current format

(ii) Believes that it is no longer viable for general practice to provide all patients with all NHS services free at the point of delivery

(iii) Urges the UK government to define the services that can and cannot be accessed in the NHS

(iv) Calls on General Practitioners Committee to consider alternative funding for general practice

(v) Calls on GPC to explore national charging for general practice services with the UK government

"It is getting very hard for them to run their businesses."

He said that many practices in fairly expensive locations, like town centres, had had the amount they could claim back from the NHS for their properties also capped, leading to an even bigger strain on finances.

Mr Tremain said: "Say a practice has to pay, for example, £10,000 rent for their high-street property. They could reclaim the full amount from the NHS.

"But now, instead of the full market value being paid for what could be a shop, the NHS will pay only for what a doctor's surgery rent would be, which is usually dramatically lower than a commercial business. That leaves another cost to the practice, plus there is a shortage of alternative and suitable premises to move to."

But he poured cold water on the idea to allow doctors to charge patients for appointments and other services like blood tests.

"The doctors I have spoken to are not in favour of that. All that would happen is their NHS funding would reduce to compensate for the fact they are now charging patients," he said.

"It will never work that way. My opinion is that GPs are not interested in this because you would also need another layer of administration on top of what is already there – and they will add more costs in collecting these payments.

"I don't think charging patients is even an interesting idea. It will just push patients into accident and emergency departments which are struggling to cope at the moment.

"So I can't see it as a viable way forward."

Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson is all for allowing doctors to discuss invoicing patients.

He said: "I think it is perfectly proper for GPs to have such a debate. However, any decision about charging patients to see a doctor is not for them to make, but for the Government.

"I am not aware of any plans by the Government to introduce such charges."

Hugh Robertson, Conservative MP for Faversham, added: "It has always been a fundamental principle of the NHS that it is free at the point of delivery."

Folkestone MP Damian Collins is furious the idea is even being voiced.

He said: "I'm against GPs charging for their services; the NHS, including GPs' services, must remain free for patients at the point of access.

"We should look at strengthening GP services locally. GPs in Folkestone and Dover received a boost last month, with the granting of £1.89m to improve access to their services for patients."

Gillingham MP Rehman Chishti said: "Patients who do not attend their appointments have an enormous impact on the health-care service and patients do have a responsibility to keep or cancel them in reasonable time.

"Some health services are using new technology to make it easier for people to cancel or to remind them of their appointments, which could help reduce the number of missed appointments."

But Julie Hooper, who runs the Pencester surgeries in Dover, told us: "We are finding increasing patient demand is becoming a massive problem now.

"These include demands for home visits when there is not a genuine reason for the doctor to go to the home.

"So, for me personally, I think charging for home visits would be a good idea and if they are completely genuine, then perhaps relax the charge. We do find quite a high percentage aren't genuine."

She added: "We are getting a lot of demand on a daily basis for minor things like coughs and colds where there is no miracle cure.

"Blood tests are quite an essential part of medical care, so maybe not charge for those.

"It needs to be discussed in more detail, but things like minor illnesses where patients could maybe deal with it first with a visit to a pharmacy, then yes, I think it would be a good idea because demand is just increasing and we can't seem to be able to offer enough appointments.

"To try and cope with the demand, we are trying to offer telephone consultations, but the increase to our phone bill is absolutely horrific.

"I don't know what the answer is, but something has got to give."

She agreed that better patient education to stop overwhelming surgeries was one of the best courses of action.

A spokeswoman for the Bower Mount Medical Practice in Maidstone said charging "would create a lot more work for a GP practice".

She added: "We wouldn't get payments – patients wouldn't pay. It is really another part of the breakdown of the NHS.

"There is certainly a lot of pressure on services in GP practices and one wonders whether charging for some of these services might stem the demand a little if there were a cost in place."

When asked if surgeries were flooded with people with minor ailments, like many A&E departments are, she said: "Very similar. A lot of GP practices find the demand overwhelming at times. But I think to be charging patients, and the efforts that would have to be put in place to do that, would outweigh any gains for a practice."

However, some A&E departments, in Manchester for instance, have already taken the decision to send their minor-ailment patients to their GPs to ease their waiting-room queues.

NHS England did not want to comment on GPs charging patients but has recently announced a national publicity campaign to alleviate pressure on GPs.

It is aimed primarily at over-60s to encourage them to visit a pharmacist for minor ailments.

NHS England said: "Pharmacists can give advice on helping older people manage long-term and on finding medication for coughs, colds and wheezing."

The adverts will also encourage older people to visit the NHS Choices website for help in managing long-term conditions or call NHS 111.

The Department of Health said: "We are absolutely clear the NHS should be free at the point of use, with access based on need.

"We recognise the vital job GPs do, which is why we have cut their targets by more than a third to free up more time for patients, and are increasing trainees so GP numbers continue to grow faster than the population."

■ **What do you think? Join the debate. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**



*Web fare including all taxes. Phone bookings are subject to a booking fee of £5. Fare applies to restricted space, sailings and dates. Full terms and conditions apply.

Golden girl Lizzy highlights how regional media really does make a difference, writes **Chris Britcher**

Picture: ADY KERRY



SOCHI STAR: West Kent's Lizzy Yarnold is backing the Local Newspaper Week campaign

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

LOCAL NEWSPAPER WEEK 12–18 MAY

Celebrating role of local newspapers in communities

LOCAL newspapers will be celebrated for the difference they can make to their communities this week.

Local Newspaper Week is an annual initiative by the local newspaper industry and the Newspaper Society designed to highlight the important role played by local papers in communities across the UK.

It runs from May 12 to 18.

And among the famous faces supporting the week will be our very own gold medal-winning Olympian Lizzy Yarnold.

The 25-year-old star of the Sochi Winter Olympic Games catapulted herself from the pages of Kent on Sunday and into the national – and global – media in February when she won the skeleton event in Russia.

Born and bred in west Kent, her success was celebrated upon her return by an open-top bus ride through Sevenoaks and towards her home in West Kingsdown.

She said: "Local media plays an incredibly important role in making a difference to the lives of individuals in local communities across the UK in a way that no other media can; whether it is raising funds for a life-saving operation, campaigning to stop a sports centre from closing, raising awareness of a local charity or cleaning up a local park.

"Local newspapers act as a force for good in their communities and can make a real difference to people's lives."

And she explained how the likes of Kent on Sunday, and other local newspapers in the county, helped her on the road to glory.

She explained: "Many local papers follow the careers of athletes in their communities, helping to promote and publicise their development, sometimes all the way to a place in Team GB.

"Even before I started competing professionally, my local newspaper reported on my progress through the ranks and publicised skeleton racing. By supporting local sporting activities and celebrating local sporting talent, local newspapers play an important role in their communities.

"This is why I'm supporting Local Newspaper Week and the Making a Difference campaign."

The Making a Difference campaign runs as part of the week, and is designed to show the impact of the local media on the lives of ordinary individuals.

Kent on Sunday is part of the Archant group which publishes a number of local newspapers across England.

■ **You can share your views on any of the topics covered within Kent on Sunday by writing to us – the best will be featured each week on our letters' page.**

To contribute your views, write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

READ ALL ABOUT IT...

1,100	Local newspapers in the UK
1,700	Associated websites in the UK
30m	People reading local UK newspapers each week
79m	Unique web users to local media sites each month
70%	Those spending half or more of their money within five miles of home
85%	Those spending half or more of their time within five miles of home

Remember you can keep up-to-date with all the local news, sport, leisure and business each and every day with Kent on Sunday. And, best of all, everything we provide is free of charge to readers.

- Check out our website - **www.kentnews.co.uk** - updated seven-days-a-week with all the latest news.
- Miss a copy of the paper? Read it free, in full, online via our e-editions at **www.kentnews.co.uk**.
- Download our new-look app for Apple iPads and iPhones - search '**Kent News**' in the app store.
- Follow us on Twitter and get all the headlines when they break - **www.twitter.com/kosmedia**.
- 'Like' us on Facebook and receive carefully selected stories to your timeline. See **www.facebook.com/kentonsunday**.

ADVERTISEMENT: This is an advertisement and not a prospectus. The Prospectus in relation to the Saga Share Offer is available on www.saga.co.uk/shares. Any decision to apply for shares in Saga should be based on that Prospectus.

You can now apply for shares in one of Britain's big success stories: Saga.

Saga started in 1950 with a small hotel in Folkestone. Then, like all great ideas, it took off. The business was built on high standards of customer care and value for money, and these remain among Saga's core values today. We now employ around 20,000 people and have over 2.1 million customers. Our products and services are tailored to meet the needs of today's over 50s, and range from holidays, cruises and healthcare to insurance, financial services and the Saga Magazine.



To apply for shares visit saga.co.uk/shares

Saga

Nothing is too much trouble

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 11.59PM ON TUESDAY 20 MAY 2014.

PRICES OF SHARES MAY GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP AND IN THE WORST CASE YOU COULD LOSE ALL OF YOUR INVESTMENT.

This advertisement does not constitute an offer or recommendation concerning the shares referred to in this advertisement. This advertisement is not for distribution or publication in any jurisdiction outside the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. The contents of this advertisement, which have been prepared by and are the sole responsibility of Saga plc ("Saga"), have been approved solely for the purposes of section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 by Merrill Lynch International. Merrill Lynch International, whose registered office is 2 King Edward Street, London EC1A 1HQ, is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Merrill Lynch International is acting exclusively for Saga and for no-one else in relation to or in connection with the potential offer of shares in Saga and will not be responsible to anyone other than Saga for providing protections afforded to clients of Merrill Lynch International or for providing advice in relation to any offer or any matter referred to in this advertisement. CAA-CP0172

FROM JUST £130,000

THE QUAYS

CHATHAM MARITIME

ONE-BED APARTMENTS TO
THREE-BED PENTHOUSE

SHOW APARTMENTS NOW OPEN
7 DAYS A WEEK BETWEEN 10AM – 6PM

01634 890 594

THEQUAYSCHATHAM.COM





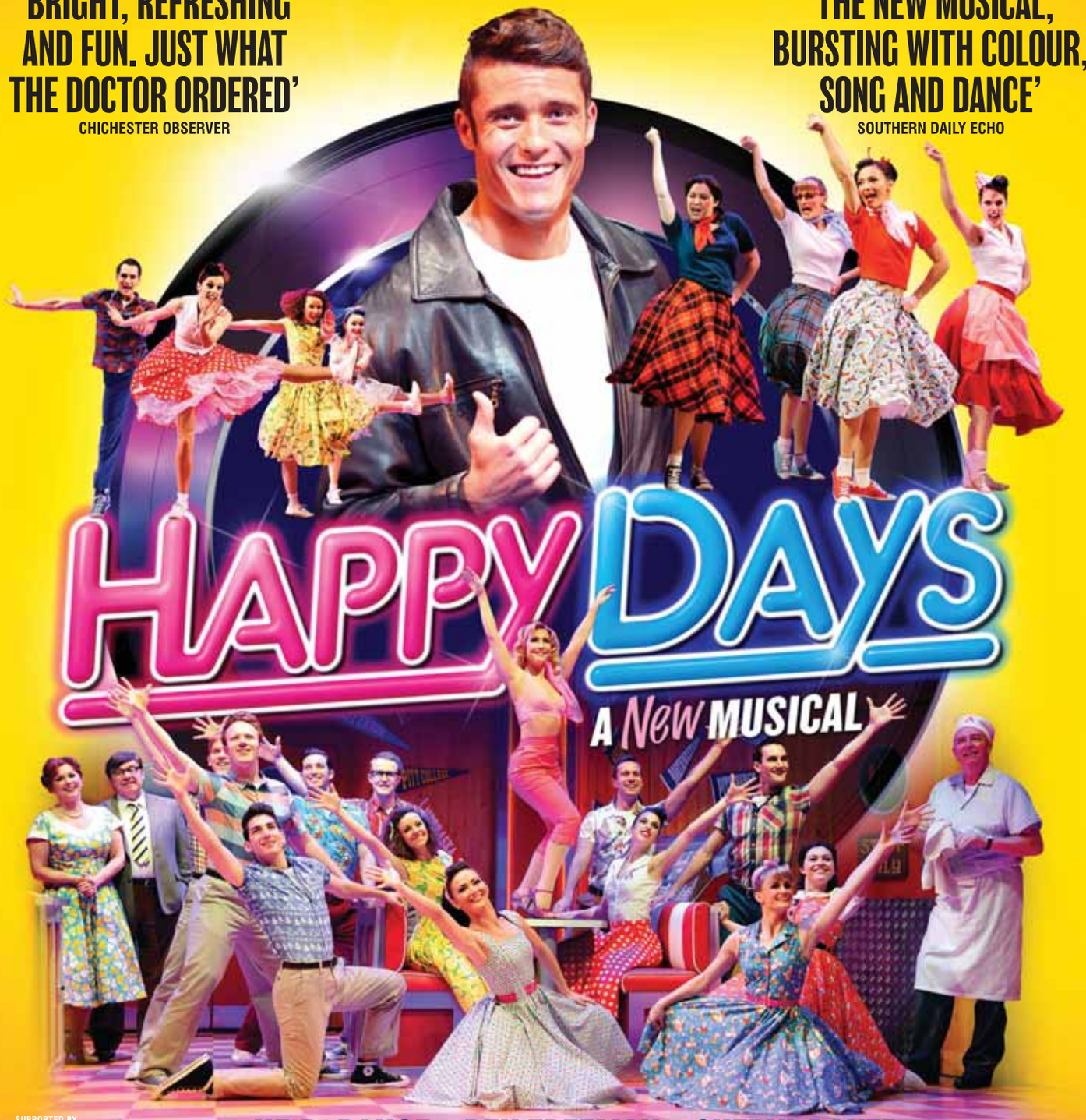


‘HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN’

THE TIMES & DAILY MAIL

‘BRIGHT, REFRESHING AND FUN. JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED’
CHICHESTER OBSERVER

‘THE NEW MUSICAL, BURSTING WITH COLOUR, SONG AND DANCE’
SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO



SUPPORTED BY Ed’s Easy Diner

STARRING HEIDI RANGE ✶ BEN FREEMAN ✶ CHERYL BAKER

CREATIVE CONSULTANT HENRY WINKLER (TV’S ‘FONZ’)
DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY ANDREW WRIGHT
BOOK BY GARRY MARSHALL MUSIC & LYRICS BY PAUL WILLIAMS
BASED ON THE PARAMOUNT PICTURES TELEVISION SERIES ‘HAPPY DAYS’ CREATED BY GARRY MARSHALL · ARRANGEMENTS AND ORCHESTRATIONS BY JOHN McDANIEL

HappyDaysANewMusical
HappyDaysUKTour
happydaysthemusical.com

DARTFORD ORCHARD THEATRE
MON 19 - SAT 24 MAY
01322 220000
orchardtheatre.co.uk

THE MARLOWE THEATRE
MON 26 - SAT 31 MAY
01227 787787
marlowtheatre.com



Are our MEPs worth their money or just riding the EU gravy train?

European Elections
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014

Our representitives in Brussels have recently come under scrutiny over the amount they are paid, with Ukip leader Nigel Farage hitting the headlines. **Sarah Linney** looks at whether this criticism is warranted or just media hype

OVERPAID, overhyped and over in Brussels. That is the perception many people have of members of the European Parliament.

With politicians' expenses at a national level rarely out of the headlines (Maria Miller, anyone?), criticism has been levelled at MEPs too for receiving a salary which some newspapers have claimed runs into six figures.

But do they deserve every penny?

In actual fact, the six-figure claim is an overestimate. MEPs across Europe earn €96,246 a year – 38.5 per cent of the basic salary of a judge at the European Court of Justice.

That equates, at the current exchange rate, to about £78,840, compared with their British counterparts who earn £67,060.

On top of this, MEPs get €4,299 per month to cover their office expenses, including rent, phone bills and equipment. The figure is halved if they attend fewer than half the plenary sittings in one parliamentary year.

For every day they are in Brussels, they also receive an impressive €304 for living costs, including hotel bills or the cost of a second home, and food.

Again, it is halved if they miss more than half the votes.

They are also paid for their travel to and from Brussels – which can be a business class air fare or a first-class rail fare – plus an annual travel allowance of up to €4,243 for official trips to other destinations.

It would be easy, perhaps, to see the figures and tend to agree with Ukip's recent advertising campaign which hinted MEPs live the life of Riley... and at your expense.

However, Dr John Fitzgibbon, lecturer in politics and international relations at Canterbury Christ Church University, believes that for the job they do MEPs are not overpaid.

"I think it's about fair. You have to attract good people," he said.

"They do a lot of technical and complex work – you have to be a very competent professional.

"And more than that is the travel, which is unbelievable.

"It's one thing to go back from London to the Orkney Islands, but Greece to Brussels is a long trip. You are living in a hotel and eating your meals out all the time and it's not very nice."

> **"There are those that genuinely put in all the work and incur all those expenses – and then those who don't go to Brussels, don't care and just claim"**
>
> **Dr John Fitzgibbon,** lecturer in politics and international relations

MEPs are taxed on their salary not only in Europe but in their home country as well, if that country chooses to do so – and Britain does. The salary was also frozen throughout the last Parliament.

It is also worth remembering that the cost of living in Brussels is expensive. A one-bedroom apartment in a reasonable part of the city would cost about €1,000 a month while a hotel stay can set you back upwards of €150 a night.

What is perhaps surprising, however, is that there is no requirement for MEPs to account for their expenditure. Many choose to publish details of their expenses online but this is purely voluntary.

"There are those that genuinely put in all the work and genuinely incur all those expenses – and then there's those who don't go to Brussels, don't care and just claim," Dr Fitzgibbon said.

"But they can do that, because they don't have to produce receipts.

"It is slowly getting more transparent, as those who don't abuse it want reform, but those who do block that.

"But if the institution is rotten, it's the members that create the rules for the institution, and we elect them."

And our opportunity to re-evaluate that arrives once more in less than two weeks when the European elections take place on Thurday, May 22.

The European Parliament website states that "in general, MEPs can no longer have close relatives among their staff" – a guideline that seems to have bypassed Ukip leader Nigel Farage, who employs his wife (who's German, coincidentally) as his secretary,

"There are scandals every now and again," adds Dr Fitzgibbon.

"For example, the Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats will have very strict rules on employing a member of your family, but in other parties, where discipline is weak and they don't really care about Europe, they can just get away with it.

"The vast majority of MEPs don't abuse the system, and work very very hard."

But he believes MEPs should be required to account for their expenditure.

"Everything should be receipted and everything published. We need to know where they are spending that money," Dr Fitzgibbon added.

"The system dates from the 1970s and that was the way things were always done, but a lot of MEPs are milking it.

"It's not the 'going to Vegas' type of fraud. It's more that, for example, they hire research assistants who help the party domestically and support the national parliamentary office, even though you're not allowed to do that; the money is meant to be spent just on your job as a European parliamentarian.

"Nothing works better than shame and public outrage for politicians. Transparency is the key to ensure that money's well spent."

Conservative south east MEP Richard Ashworth was instrumental in reforming the party's accountability when it came to expenses.

Tory MEPs publish all their allowances and expenses online and are required to provide certification from a chartered accountant to say all their transactions have been open and transparent.

The party also has a compliance officer, appointed at Mr Ashworth's behest, who questions MEPs on their spending.

"The fact he is going to be there means people make sure their records are complete," Mr Ashworth explained.

"You can never guarantee that it's 100 per cent waterproof, but we are always seeking ways of making it more transparent.

"I think the authorities have taken some great strides along the road to make sure there's great scrutiny of how expenses are accounted for. I would like to see them go further."

But he says he does not believe the allowances themselves to be overgenerous.

"We want to communicate with the public, so you have to run an office in the UK and get yourself around the country," Mr Ashworth added.

"The Conservative Party requires

PAGE 20 »

« PAGE 19

receipts for our office allowances and there is an expectation that if you don't use the allowance up you return it."

Green MEP Keith Taylor publishes all his expenses online and says he too is expected to give his office allowance back if he doesn't use it.

But he says that if he is to do his job properly then a decent office allowance needs to be provided.

"I employ quite a lot of different people to provide a service to the 8.5 million people I represent. It's an expensive operation," Mr Taylor said.

"I employ five full timers, one or two interns and three part timers. We have one person whose full-time job is trying to answer every enquiry we get from the public. That's about 15,000 responses a year.

"I think it's important to have that kind of link to the people I represent, and if the allowances were less, that's one example of a service that might suffer."

Similarly, he pointed out that the €304 for living costs while in Brussels does not go as far as people might think.

"I have a flat in Brussels which I rent, and that money goes to pay towards that. Otherwise I would have to be in a hotel," Mr Taylor said.

"Often we are working 14-hour days and we need to be able to have some space.

"I am trying to do the best job I can and it's very hard work. But if people don't think we are entitled to it I would understand them saying that, especially if they are on benefits, and I voted against increasing allowances during my time in Parliament."

And despite politicians often all being denounced en masse as grasping and dishonest, it is clear that to Mr Taylor integrity is very important.

"I think it would be a good idea to have a compulsory declaration of expenditure. Taxpayers are entitled to know what we've received and what we've spent it on," he said.

"But even if it wasn't a rule, I would feel honour bound to do that. It's all about trust. If people can't trust their representatives that's a very sad state of affairs.

"I couldn't do the job I do if I was anything other than completely transparent.

"It's taxpayers' money that comes my way, it's not my money.

"How can I ask people to believe in me if I am anything but a completely open book?"



MORALS: MEP Richard Ashworth



FARAGE NOT FIRST TO FEEL THE HEAT

AS Ukip's political influence continues to build ahead of the May 22 elections, so the spotlight has been shone ever brighter on its inner workings.

And it was the party's leader, Nigel Farage, who found himself on the receiving end of the most recent batch of negative headlines when it comes to finances.

The Westerham politician came under fire for his use of his European Parliament allowance.

An article in The Times accused the south east MEP of accepting the allowance intended to run his office even though it was provided rent-free by Ukip supporters.

His defence – which is true – was that the Parliament does not require MEPs to disclose details of their expenditure.

''The way the system in Europe works is you are given a lump sum of money every month to spend as you see fit,'' Mr Farage said.

He accused political opponents of trying to stoke up controversy where it did not exist.

For wider political observers, it again underlined how resilient Mr Farage has become as, despite a number of negative headlines, he has managed to continue to see Ukip dominate opinion polls leading up to the Euro ballot.

''I'm not defending that system. I want to abolish that system. I don't want there to be MEPs or expenses,'' he added.

He's not the first Ukip MEP to feel the heat.

In 2012, Ukip MEP Derek Clark repaid more than £30,000 of EU money after diverting it to party workers based in the UK.

He had applied for the cash to pay two assistants in 2004 and 2005, but an inquiry by the EU's investigative unit found they worked almost exclusively in Britain.

In 2009, a former Ukip MEP, Tom Wise, was jailed for two years for fraudulently claiming £39,000 of parliamentary expenses. The party whip was withdrawn from him over the scandal.

Ukip remains, however, on track to be the star performers when the nation goes to the polls this month.

They are expected to perform strongly in the south east, following on from success at last year's Kent County Council elections, where they finished as the main opposition party.

ACCIDENT CLAIM?

We can help with your claim for:

- Head/brain injuries (Headway Approved Solicitors 2014)
- Accidents at work
- Car and motorbike accidents
- Fatal accidents
- Trips and slips
- Medical negligence



Call GIRLINGS PERSONAL INJURY SOLICITORS on
0845 2221 999
for a FREE, no obligation chat about your claim

MEMBER OF The Law Society apil

www.girlingspersonalinjury.co.uk

KENT no win no fee specialists

WHAT IS IT THAT THE LARGE DIY STORES DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW?

Bring this advert along and I will also give YOU the best deal on Bosch appliances anywhere*

It's that most independents can offer very similar products for the same price, or less, but can provide YOU with a more personal experience.

My company, MBK Design Studio, has been completing projects in SE England since 1987 and has continually been offering my clients a better service than the large multi nationals.

So why don't you come to my showroom and see what value you can get from the kitchens and bathrooms I sell. I am offering YOU a reduced price on all Crown Lifestyle kitchens, a Kent company, which will make them even more affordable and better value than many of the kitchens on offer as present.

I can't guarantee that I can compete with every quote, but I constantly complete projects that originally started in those megastores.

Visit us and we will help YOU with your project, what have you got to lose?



'Stewart knew me better than myself and was a pleasure to deal with'
Mrs E Maidstone

MBK were professional, responsible and courteous
Mr & Mrs L, Loose

MBK Design Studio
Bathrooms, Kitchens, Home Studios & Bedrooms
Established 1987



Proud members of Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters

You Tube

The Oast Clock House Farm, Heath Road Coxheath, Kent
01622 619876
www.m-b-k.co.uk

*Subject to Terms and conditions available in the office

Fire scenario sees Dartford Tunnel closed for overnight safety exercise





SAFETY FIRST: Emergency services and partner agencies will be put through their paces during the tunnel blaze

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

MORE than 50 firefighters were due to take part in a full-scale overnight exercise this weekend dealing with the scenario of a blaze in the Dartford Tunnel.

On Saturday, seven fire engines and specialist vehicles from the west of the county along with colleagues from Essex Fire and Rescue Service were to be called to the scene between 10pm and 2am to be put through their paces and test the emergency services and other partner agencies' response to a major incident in the tunnel.

The scenario planned is that of a van travelling in lane one of the west tunnel suffering a sudden tyre failure before swerving and colliding with a second vehicle.

The collision would block both lanes and cause huge queues.

Putting some of the tunnel's new £34 million safety equipment to use, a fire suppression system will also be called upon when smoke pours from the crashed vehicle.

Greg Theophanides, from Kent Fire and Rescue Services (KFRS), said: "Dartford Tunnel plays a vital role in keeping the county's road network moving. However, fires in tunnels can be the most difficult to deal with and pose unique challenges.

"It can be harder for rescue teams to reach the scene, the conditions are confined and it gets incredibly hot and humid. This is why we must be able to put our emergency plans into operation effectively.

"The activation of the new fire suppression system will knock the fire back quickly, making it safer for our firefighters and tunnel users.

"Although safety standards in the tunnel are very high, it is vital our contingency plans are as robust as possible. This innovative training session will allow our firefighters to bring to life possible events that we could be called to deal with and make sure we are all equipped and prepared to deal with it safely and ensure the safety of motorists."

Highways Agency project manager, Paul Harding, said: "Safety is a top priority for the Highways Agency and, although we hope an incident like this never happens, we want to make sure our teams and the emergency services are prepared.

"The tunnel safety systems have been upgraded to ensure journeys remain safe for the thousands of drivers using the crossing each day."

The exercise also includes representatives from the police, ambulance service, Essex Fire & Rescue Service, Highways Agency, local authorities, Environment Agency, St John Ambulance, British Red Cross and the Casualties Union and is taking place overnight to keep disruption to a minimum for the travelling public.

The road was shut from 10pm on Saturday night and planned to reopen at 4am on Sunday morning.

ELEPHANT PARADE | the national tour presented by intu

Follow the herd

Monday 5th May - Sunday 1st June

Come join us this May as we host the Elephant Parade. A festival of colour showcasing vibrant art creations on elephant statues - all to raise greater awareness of the plight of the Asian Elephant.



For information on the tour and to register interest in buying or sponsoring an elephant visit:
intuelephantparade.co.uk | #eletour

THE ASIAN ELEPHANT FOUNDATION.ORG

intu Lakeside

Competition

Win family tickets for 'Knights of Royal England' medieval fun at Leeds Castle



LEEDS Castle comes alive this half-term as it harks back to an era when knights ruled.

Jousting with the Knights of Royal England runs from May 27 to June 1 at the popular tourist attraction.

And you can be there for free courtesy of our competition.

We have five family day tickets up for grabs – which allow entry for two adults and three children.

They will give you the chance to watch the knights jousting on horseback, as well as enjoying all the other action-packed medieval activities and entertainment.

Watch displays of spectacular daredevil stunts, medieval weaponry, falls, fights and galloping horses. Meanwhile, the knights' school includes hobby horse jousting, mini-battles and try-on armour for younger children. There will also be a mini-medieval market to explore.

To be in with a chance of winning simply answer the this question:

King Arthur presided over the Knights of the...



a) Square Table
b) Round Table
c) Oblong Table

To enter, simply text KOS followed by JOUSTING and your answer then your first name, surname address and postcode to 80058, eg. KOS JOUSTING C JOHN SMITH 2 THE STREET, TOWN, DV2 2GT.

Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rate. Winners will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final. Usual terms and conditions apply – full details see www.kentnews.co.uk.

Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of Wednesday May 21, 2014, your entry will not be valid, but you still may be charged.

SMS services are provided by BBA Digital. Helpline telephone 0844 3572403.

Alternatively enter by post to Jousting Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS, including your answer, name, address, postcode and contact telephone number.

And don't fret if you don't win. Annual tickets, which allow entry all year round, are available, priced £24 for adults and £21 for seniors and visitors with disabilities and £16 for children.

Leeds Castle is near Maidstone just off junction eight of the M20. Grounds open 10am daily and the castle is open from 10.30am. Last admission 4.30pm and gates close at 6pm.

Visit www.leeds-castle.com/events

GIRLINGS'
MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE HELPDESK
Call GIRLINGS' MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE HELPDESK on
0845 2221 999
For a **FREE**, no obligation chat about your claim for negligent medical treatment



The Law Society
apil
Girlings
PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS SOLICITORS

www.girlingspersonalinjury.co.uk
KENT no win no fee specialists

THE FIREPLACE
A Family Run Business



- Wood and Multi Fuel Stoves
- Stove Package Deals Available
- Marble, Wood and Stone Fire Surrounds
- Bespoke Service Available
- Gas and Electric Fires
- Chimney Lining
- Full Installation Service





THE FIREPLACE
Visit Our Showroom
2 Castle Court, Castle Road, Eurolink Industrial Estate, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3TD
Tel/Fax: 01795 599234
www.the-fireplace.net
Opening Times: Monday - Friday 9.30-4, Saturday 10-4

Watersports clubs and centres around county are giving you the chance to try your hand at sailing or even windsurfing, **Sarah Linney** takes to the sea...



Open weekend to let you release your inner sailor

FANCY yourself as the next Lord Nelson or Ellen MacArthur?

Sailing clubs and watersports centres across Kent are holding an open weekend next Saturday and Sunday to let newcomers have a go at sailing and windsurfing – in many cases for free.

But why would you want to turn off the TV and get out of your armchair to go and do something which is both a bit active and probably going to involve getting wet and cold?

Because, according to the Royal Yachting Association's sailing development officer for the south east, Sam Rowe, it's a sport unlike any other and which absolutely anyone can enjoy.

And given the county is surrounded on three sides by water, it makes sense.

PAGE 25 »



Tunbridge Wells Care Centre specialises in providing high quality care to the people living in our comfortable, secure and happy home.

Each of our residents receives the highest standard of tailored nursing, specialist dementia and respite care from fully trained and professional staff 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

"We *enable* our residents to engage in activities"

01892 618721

Call or visit us at anytime - NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY

TUNBRIDGE WELLS CARE CENTRE

BDL GAS SERVICES

Fair Trader

01634 232048

9 High Street, Rainham, Kent, ME8 7HX www.bdlgasservices.co.uk

A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS ESTABLISHED IN RAINHAM FOR OVER 15YRS

ALL YOUR GAS APPLIANCE NEEDS UNDER ONE ROOF

Supply, Install and service Boilers & Central Heating systems
Fires Gas & Electric • Water heaters • Wall heaters • Cookers Gas & Electric

We also supply Gel Burners for indoor and outdoor use



Free surveys for installation • Landlord certificates • Natural Gas & LPG
Huge range of high efficiency fires made in the UK with a 5yr warranty
All engineers Gas Safe registered • Medway Fair Trader member

Supply and install Wood, Marble & Stone
Fireplaces fully bespoke if required



Keen to see how just any landlubber would fare when put in a boat, we thrust senior reporter **Sarah Linney** towards the waves to test out her sea legs...



AHOY!: Reporter Sarah Linney (centre) crews for sailors Doug Whiteoak and Bridget Bree

"WHEN I tell people that I am going to be doing a story on sailing, there are jokes about me falling overboard. An awful lot of jokes.

I don't know why. It is not as if I can't swim. I was very proud to achieve my ten metre badge in our local pool at the age of six, even if it was a bit of a struggle.

But I guess it is fair to say that I am not the sporty type. In fact, it is so long since I went swimming that I have had to borrow a costume from my mother.

In the car on the way to Herne Bay Sailing Club, which has very kindly offered to let me have a go on a boat for a morning, I can tell that she is a little apprehensive.

I am met by chief instructor Nathan Hudson, who is friendly and helpful. He tells me sailing is an activity anyone can do.

"It's the only sport you can start at any age, whatever shape and size you are," Mr Hudson says.

"You can be so free when you are sailing. You are close to nature and it's a very de-stressing sport.

"We can get people sailing very quickly - after four or five sessions. It is very much about encouraging people to have the confidence to keep doing it. During the recession we have had a lot of support from the Royal Yachting Association to keep doing that and train more instructors."

The club is open from March to October or November and counts former national champions among its 50 or so members.

It runs courses for non-members throughout the year, and also holds sailing taster days for deaf children as part of the National Deaf Children's Society's Me2 project, which helps deaf young people get involved in arts and sport.

Mr Hudson's son Herbie, 11, is deaf and he trained as an instructor because he wanted to teach his son to sail.

"We are a very family-friendly club," Mr Hudson adds. "We are run entirely by volunteers, and everyone mucks in."

I am kitted out with a wetsuit, a waterproof jacket, boots and a lifejacket – for which I am particularly grateful.

While we are waiting for our pre-sailing briefing I chat to sailing secretary Harvey Burwin, who tells me why he loves the sport so much.

"It's the stuff of adventures – playing around on the water like when we were kids," he says.

"Anyone can do it. The variety is quite remarkable. You will see kids in small boats, absolutely loving it, and older people in slightly bigger boats with big grins.

"Any member can sail their own boat at any time. That's the beauty of this. You can just look out of the window and decide you fancy a sail, and off you go.

"You don't have to own a boat. We have club boats you can rent for about £5 a day, but there are boats here that would have cost as little as £100, and they will last forever. Mine is 24-years-old."

Mum-of-two Karen Monticelli, 40, took up sailing because she wanted an activity she could do with her sons Lewis, 10, and Harvey, 8.

"The boys have a natural love of the water, so it's just brilliant," she said.

"I was initially very nervous, but it's such a family-orientated environment. Everyone is so knowledgeable and very helpful.

"I can turn up here any day and there will be a friendly face and a bit of friendly conversation. There are regular social events, or you can just sit here and picnic with your family and friends around you.

Saturdays tend to be devoted to training, with Sundays given over to racing. Members compete against each other, or at competitions around the country and also go on sailing cruises around the north Kent coastline. Some races raise money for charities like the RNLI.

Everyone I meet is friendly, chatty and helpful and there are men, women and children of all ages and from all social backgrounds. I am confident that anyone could fit in.

The briefing is detailed and seems quite complicated, and I begin to realise just what a skilled activity sailing is.

We are only going at about seven miles an hour, but it feels faster. As the boat rides the waves, I am reminded of the sensation of flying...

I am told that I will be sailing with engineer Doug Whiteoak and Bridget Bree, a former actress turned sign language interpreter who became involved with the club through its work with deaf children.

She tells me all about how she capsized last summer, which is probably not the story I need to hear right now.

"I always wanted to do sailing, but like a lot of people never did anything about it," says the 49-year-old, who appeared in the 2001 film Lunar Girl.

"I'm old enough to have read Swallows and Amazons and I lived in Southampton when I was younger, but although I always wanted to go out on the water I never did. I think my parents saw it as something for the elite.

"I realised how friendly it was here when I came down as an interpreter. It reminds me of my dad's old Scout hut. So I decided to take the plunge."

I am given a hard hat to wear, and a woolly hat to put underneath it in case I get cold. Mysteriously, no-one else seems to be wearing a hard hat and I can only conclude that my clumsiness is wildly apparent even to people who have only just met me.

Doug and Bridget – both of whom I warm to instantly – get the boat rigged and, after we have helped a couple of other boats out to sea, it is our turn.

We wade into the sea and the icy water comes pouring into my boots. I suppress a gasp – until then I had been surprisingly warm in my wetsuit.

We clamber onto the boat, and all of a sudden we are out to sea.

As soon as we set sail I can completely see why people love this. Mr Hudson has spoken about the freedom of being on the water and he has encapsulated it perfectly.

We are only going at about seven miles an hour, but it feels faster. As the boat rides the waves, I am reminded of the sensation of flying through the air that you get when riding a bike – the feeling of being propelled by something that is under your control, yet enabling you to go places you can't go alone.

Out in the fresh air, adrift on the water, I feel like I am freeing myself from something. My problems are far away on the shore, my worries left behind on dry land. I don't have to think about anything.

As someone for whom the idea of running away from her life never quite loses its appeal, the escapism is seductive.

Despite all the jokes about falling overboard, I feel completely safe. Mr Whiteoak, who is in charge of the boat, seems hugely capable, as does Mrs Bree, despite her protestations that she is a novice.

I have to help let out and pull in the ropes on my side. I am not very good at remembering what to do but Mr Whiteoak is still pleased, telling me excitedly, "There you go! You've crewed!"

Unfortunately, my feeble constitution can always be relied upon to let me down at times like this. The seasickness I thought I had grown out of has made a reappearance and, as it steadily worsens, I have to ask Mr Whiteoak if he will take me back to the shore.

I am really disappointed. Any nerves I had at the start have evaporated and I have had a really fun experience.

Mr Hudson offers a ride in the rescue boat, which patrols in case anyone is in trouble, but I need to be on dry land for a while.

But there's nothing to stop me returning another time... having taken some seasickness tablets, of course.

Herne Bay Sailing Club can be contacted on 01227 375650."



« PAGE 23

“People get hooked. It’s a sport that anyone of any age or ability can do. We have people as young as five or six up to people in their 80s and 90s”

Sam Rowe,
Royal Yachting Association



“People get hooked,” he said.

“It’s a sport that anyone of any age or ability can do. We have people as young as five or six up to people in their 80s and 90s.

“It’s a really family-orientated sport. You can go along with your grandparents or your kids and all go sailing at the same time.

“You are out in the open, out on the water and it is very challenging. There is always something to learn every time you go sailing as there is always a different set of variables to test you; the weather, the tide, the equipment, different venues or different people to sail with.”

Sailing is sometimes seen as more of an upper-class sport, and one that requires a lot of money for all the equipment, but Mr Rowe says this isn’t true at all.

“The biggest hurdle we have is overcoming the perception that sailing is expensive. It is quite cheap when you compare it with other sports,” he added.

“Club membership for a family of four for a year is normally about £200. For that you get access to the club’s facilities all year round, without having to pay anything extra – whereas with gym membership, for example, you might pay £50 a month, then have to pay extra for classes.

“You don’t have to buy a boat. The sailing club will have its own training equipment, and sometimes there’s a small cost involved – normally £5 or £10 to hire a boat – but a lot of clubs include that in their membership price.

“There is no class distinction and it is very sociable. Most clubs will have a social programme with barbecues and discos and it is a really nice environment to get involved in.”

There are dozens of sailing, windsurfing and yachting clubs in Kent and its vast coastline, which comprises the Thames Estuary, the North Sea and the Channel, means you can have a different experience in different parts of the county, he adds.

“No-one in Kent is more than 15 to 20 minutes away from a sailing club,” he added.

“Kent is a really good sailing venue. The county has quite a challenging coastline, but that makes it interesting. The different places vary so much, they all have their benefits and challenges.

“You can learn over a series of weeks and weekends and build up your skills. It helps to be able to swim but you don’t have to – we have lifejackets.

“Different types of sailing appeal to different people. There are different techniques and different venues – there are so many variables.”

■ **For details of how to take part, visit www.rya.org.uk/go/ptbo**

Advertiser’s Announcement

Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club Pushes the Boat Out

Ideally situated overlooking the busy Port of Dover the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club (RCPYC) is one of the oldest sailing clubs in England. In spite of its grand name the RCPYC is renowned for its warm and friendly welcome extended to visiting sailors from UK ports and beyond.

RCPYC has thriving sections for yacht racing and cruising and power boats. Club yachts race in a competitive home programme and in Regattas locally and further afield in the UK and Europe. The increasingly popular cruising section organises events to take advantage of the Club’s proximity to Northern European ports.

This year the RCPYC is pleased to be playing a major part in the Dover Marina - “Push the Boat Out” event on 17 May.

If you’ve always wanted to try yachting but never had the opportunity the RCPYC is inviting people to come and try the ropes with taster sails. And for those bitten by the sailing bug “Learn to Sail” courses will be available through the RCPYC on their new Sea School charter boat.

If sailing doesn’t appeal but you’re looking to join a friendly Club with plenty of activities away from the water then the RCPYC will also be opening its doors from 2 to 6pm for those interested in becoming social members. Come along and check out the facilities and watch the on-the-water displays from the Club’s balcony.

For further information contact the RCPYC on 01304 206262 or Bernard Sealy, Club Commodore, on 07894 097 450.

Have you ever thought about sailing? Are you interested in things nautical?

At the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club, we offer our members a range of sailing experiences—from the beginner to experienced yachtsman.

- “Taster sails” for the complete novice.
- RYA recognised sailing courses.
- Workshops to develop special skills.
- Regular cruises in company across the channel & elsewhere.

So, why not

- Take part in a great sport.
- Visit a great club.
- Enjoy our wide range of social & evening activities
- Relax in our clubhouse—good food, great beer.

Join us!

You will be sure of a warm welcome.

Membership details available from RCPYC, 4-5 Waterloo Crescent, Dover, Kent CT16 1LA, by phoning 01304-206262, or by emailing our Secretary on rcpyachtclub@gmail.com



Digging into the past for Channel Tunnel's birthday

The engineering marvel connecting the UK and France celebrated its 20th anniversary this week and although its construction was controversial and disruptive it altered the lives of many in Kent forever, as **Chris Murphy** reports...

IT IS hard to imagine today of an era before the Channel Tunnel – where the ferry companies ruled the waves and the county's transport network did not include the high-speed line.

It's difficult to remember the disruption the creation of that railway line linking the Channel Tunnel terminal at Cheriton, near Folkestone, caused as it snaked towards London.

Homes were subject to compulsory purchase orders, pubs demolished, town cinemas bulldozed.

The impact will no doubt be recalled by those currently fighting plans for HS2 – the high-speed rail proposal linking London to the North.

Yet for the all the disruption, what emerged is a remarkable feat of modern engineering.

Not only does Kent now boast a high-speed rail line which has dramatically reduced journey times to the capital for commuters and businesses, but also the first permanent link between our shores and the Continent – the Channel Tunnel.

And it was 20 years ago this week, the Queen and President Mitterand of France travelled through the tunnel to meet – thus officially opening a link which today we take for granted.

Full passenger services may not have begun until November, 1994, but that first journey was a hugely symbolic moment. At the Eurotunnel Exhibition Centre in Cheriton a weeklong series of events took place to celebrate the big moment. The BBC even hosted an episode of Songs of Praise from the site.

But, of course, the idea of bridging the Channel was not a new one.

In 1802, French mining engineer Albert Mathieu-Favier put forward the first ever design for a cross-Channel fixed link based on the principle of a bored two-level tunnel; the top one, paved and lit by oil lamps, to be used by horse-drawn stagecoaches; the bottom to be used for groundwater flows.

A year later, Englishman Henry Mottray picked a method of dropping a pre-manufactured iron tunnel on to the seabed, a popular method today and once used for the river tunnel linking Chatham and Strood. The sheer scale of the operation put the brakes on the ambitious scheme.

Steam trains came along from 1830 and soon too the idea of running them through a tunnel instead of horses. By the mid 19th century, French mining engineer, Aimé Thomé de Gamond, spent 30 years working on seven different designs.

In 1855, during a state visit to France in Versailles, Queen Victoria and Napoléon III approved one of de Gamond's undersea tunnels. The plans were presented in the Exposition Universelle of Paris in 1867. Things were finally getting under way.

But it was another 13 years when Beaumont and English tunnel boring machines began digging on both sides of the water.

Then planes were invented and, in 1909, Louis Bleriot flew one over the Channel. In a moment it changed minds over the under sea tunnel again – and work ground to a halt.

Wars came and went, and entrenched the belief that if a tunnel existed, German forces would have been in the UK by now.

It wasn't until 1955 that British defence minister Harold MacMillan decided a tunnel was no longer a military risk.

Two years after that, the Channel Tunnel Study Group was formed and in 1960 came up with the idea of two tunnels, one either way, and a service tunnel between them – closely resembling today's layout.

Fast forward to 1973 and Edward Heath and French President Georges Pompidou sign the Franco-British Channel Tunnel Treaty.

Surely now it will be built? Sadly not – the oil crises of 1975 forced Harold Wilson to halt planning because of money worries.

The British and French Governments reach yet another agreement in 1984 on just a consultation process, but this time they were going to talk with private investors, thereby keeping public money out of the equation to build a fixed link of any design. Anyone who fancied the idea of build-

ing it was invited to get in touch the next year, and four groups did just that.

One was for a suspension bridge; another a set of artificial islands, bridges and a tunnel; a Channel Expressway with a mix of rail and road tunnels; and the Eurotunnel Project based on an old 1970s idea of two rail tunnels and one service tunnel.

Now, finally, things were really under way. Companies were formed, agreements signed, and on December 15, 1987, the British shovels were out once more. Only this time with such massive advances in technology, monster boring machines were used to dig and line the tunnel at the same time. The French started operations on February 28.

On December 1, 1990, at 12.12 central European time, the British and French teams achieved the first historic breakthrough under the Channel, in the service tunnel at 22.3 km from the UK and 15.6 from France.

The north tunnel breakthrough was in May – and south a month later.

The Eurotunnel Exhibition Centre allowed visitors to watch the transformation of the site at Cheriton – a tall tower was created allowing a view to witness the enormous work taking place and how the rail lines were being created, while model maps provided a glimpse of what the finished product would look like.

Visitors could even stand beside an enormous piece of the drilling equipment to get a sense of the scale of the operation.

Equipment installations followed and in May, 1994, the Queen performed the opening ceremony, coverage of which was beamed live on TV.

Six months later and the passenger service started as Eurostar – which has a deal with Eurotunnel to use its tunnels to run high-speed inter-continental services – ran its first service from London to Paris. In the December, cars were able to board the Eurotunnel trains and use the service too.

It would take another 13 years, however, for the domestic high-speed services to be brought into operation – allowing commuters fast direct routes to St Pancras.

These days, the company that runs it has stuck by Margaret Thatcher's famous pronouncement that not a single public penny will be spent on what was dubbed from the outset, the 'Chunnel'.

A spokesman said: "The tunnel is owned by private investors and private shareholders funded the building of the Channel Tunnel.

"Every penny we have raised, every loan we have taken out, every share issue has all been entirely privately funded. We have 300,000 shareholders, which is a mix of 20 per cent French, 20 per cent British and then from the rest of the world."

> **"Now, people can pack their bags at home into their vehicle and then not get out again until they have reached their destination"**
>
> **Eurotunnel spokesman,** On how the link changed travel

Its completion instantly changed the way people travelled abroad in the UK.

A Eurotunnel spokesman said: "Now, people can pack their bags at home into their vehicle and then not get out again until they have reached their destination. The Channel Tunnel cuts out all those time delaying factors you have at airports both here and abroad."

The crossing time was just 35 minutes too – with most ferry firms taking closer to 90 minutes, it put an enormous strain on traditional operations which employed thousands of staff in the county.

Adds the spokesman: "Eurostar, which is a customer of Eurotunnel and is separately owned and run, has completely changed the inter-city market.

"The Channel Tunnel has also transformed travel in Kent. The M20 motorway has been built because the tunnel is at the end of it.

"High Speed 1 was built to take trains from London to the tunnel and on to Paris and Brussels. This also means people in all corners of Kent can get to London much quicker.

"Eurostar is also our biggest potential for the future. The forecast for growth in high-speed passenger transport is something in the order of 4.2 million passengers on top of the 10 million they already carry, and that's when the routes to Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Cologne, Geneva and Marseilles open up.

"People in Kent will be able to jump on a train at Ebbsfleet and Ashford and go to all those places as well."

PAGE 28 »



FREE MICROCHIPPING
from Dogs Trust
Please visit us at:

Hancock Close, Strood,
Kent, ME2 3XL
Friday 16th May
11-3pm

Vigo Village Hall, The Bay, Vigo,
Gravesend, DA13 0TD
Saturday 17th May
10-4pm

The law is changing!
As from the 6th April 2016
you must have your
dog microchipped!

Contact 0207 8370006 for more details
or visit www.chipmydog.org.uk



*Offer open to dog owners aged 18 or over regardless of benefit status, subject to availability and resources of the charity. Please note that Dogs Trust does not currently fund any other veterinary treatment. No appointment needed. We strongly advise that puppies being chipped are fully vaccinated beforehand. We reserve the right to ask for proof of vaccination. We cannot chip any other pets at this event. The Promoter: Dogs Trust, 17 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7RQ. Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 and SCO37843.

DogsTrust

Report claims HS1 has not delivered benefits promised



HS1: Has it brought real economic benefits?

By Sarah Linney
sarah.linney@archant.co.uk

A REPORT claiming Kent's High Speed Rail (HS1) has been less beneficial to the county than originally promised by politicians has been released by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA)

The IEA is an educational charity and think-tank. Founded in 1955, it analyses data and markets in a bid to solve economic and social issues.

HS1 is the 67-mile rail link between London and the Channel Tunnel. It is estimated to have cost around £11bn in current day prices.

The report, called Failure to Transform: High Speed Rail and the Regeneration Myth is by Dr Richard Wellings, head of transport at the IEA.

Its release is seen by some as fuel to the rising opposition to HS2 – the proposed fast rail link from London to the North.

Dr Wellings conducted research into the economic implications of HS1 in east Kent, which he defined as the four easternmost boroughs of Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet.

The report focused on employment rates and wages in these areas.

The data he analysed showed that employment rates had not risen in line with expectations, in fact, according to the report, since the introduction of high-speed rail services, east Kent has performed worse in terms of employment than not only the rest of the south east, but also the rest of Britain.

The report says: "From 2010–2013 the average employment rate was five percentage points lower than during the pre-high-speed period examined, compared with falls of 2.1 percentage points for the south east and 1.8 percentage points nationally."

Dr Welling was surprised by the area's poor performance. He told KoS: "I thought given that the region has a number of advantages, for example, its proximity to European economies, that it would outperform the rest of the UK. I was surprised this wasn't the case.

"We were looking at employment rates, which were particularly patchy in Thanet, at 61 per cent. This is extremely low. I was shocked by these figures."

It is worth remembering the period covered includes the partial closure of the Pfizer laboratory in Sandwich, which had a huge impact on the area.

He sees these numbers as indicative of the failure of HS1 to benefit the local economy to the extent predicted, going as far as to say the impact of HS1 has been 'too small to counteract other more important economic factors'.

The report was received with anger by some politicians, including Damian Collins, MP for Folkestone and Hythe, who saw it as little more than a cynical attempt to undermine public confidence in high speed rail.

He described the report as "politically motivated" and accusing the IEA of manipulating data for its own means.

The Tory MP told KoS: "The IEA was very selective about the data it chose to use looking at employment, rather than unemployment rates.

"A good example of how limited the employment rate can be, is in Canterbury.

"It has a very high student population, which means that unemployment is low in terms of unemployment benefits being drawn.

"It also means that employment rates are low, as students are in full-time education.

"Using the employment rate does not paint a true picture, and he has in fact ignored the unemployment rate, which has fallen since the introduction of high speed rail."

Another facet of the report, which focused on wages, found no upward trends.

The report added: "The 2013 data suggests that median gross weekly earnings for full-time workers in east Kent as a whole remain far below those in the rest of the south east and indeed slightly below those in the rest of the country."

While Dr Wellings accepted there have been some economic benefits following the implementation of HS1, he claims that they are far from the grandiose promises of politicians prior to developing the railway.

■ What do you think of HS1? Has it reinvigorated the county? Or has it been a disappointment? Join the debate and share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

IT'S NOT ALL BEEN PLAIN SAILING...

FOR such a major project with such huge infrastructure, simply keeping it ticking over has not been without cost.

At the peak of construction it was costing £3m a day with 15,000 people working on the project.

Ten workers, eight of them British, were killed during building work, mostly in the early days.

Since it has opened there have been several major incidents.

In November, 1996, there was a major emergency and its biggest single incident to date after an HGV shuttle wagon packed with lorries caught fire inside the tunnel.

A number of lorry drivers were taken to hospital but no one was seriously hurt.

However, the intensity of the blaze was such it melted parts of the track and caused the tunnel to be close for six months as a major investigation got under way.

In August, 2006, a truck fire again on an HGV shuttle train closed the tunnel for several hours.

And in September, 2008, yet another HGV shuttle train fire saw several people taken to hospitals suffering from smoke inhalation. It reopened two days later.

The tunnel was closed again, albeit briefly, in November, 2012, after a truck on an HGV shuttle caught fire.

There have also been numerous breakdowns. In 2009, some 500 passengers were trapped for six hours in carriages where temperatures rose sharply.

In December that year, one of the worst breakdowns was when five London-bound trains with 2,000 passengers ground to a halt. There were reports some journeys were delayed by 15 hours. The cold weather in France was blamed at the time. It was also the first time a Eurostar was evacuated inside the tunnel. An investigation later suggested a raft of changes should be made to the electrical systems.

Another was in 1996 when 1,000 passengers were caught after a Eurostar broke down thanks to ice and snow melting and then falling on to circuitry.

The tunnel has also seen a number of incidents involving illegal immigrants trying to enter the UK. A group of 43 were once spotted trying to walk through and in 2008 a train driver reported seeing four people several miles inside.

The body of a stowaway was recovered from the underside of a train in 2002.

Even today, migrants risk their lives daily by clinging to the bottom of lorries about to use the Channel Tunnel.



Up to 40% less
Than a fully fitted kitchen

- Free Appliances when you spend over £3,500
- Fully fitted kitchens available
- Please call for special showroom offers
- Granite overlay and solid granite for fast installation



Est. 1999

Specialists in Kitchen Makeovers and New Kitchens Doors & Worktops

Giving New Life to Old Kitchens

DREAM DOORS®

NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS

Call Stuart for a FREE Quote on 01622 678966

View our credentials at:

Proud members of Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters

Find Us On

Visit our Showroom: 12 Pudding Lane, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LN

www.dreamdoors.co.uk

MADE IN THE UK

Photographer's forgotten pictures of a young John Lennon hits right note

Exhibition reveals images of star taken before Beatlemania swept the world, writes **Chris Murphy**

TWELVE previously unseen photographers of John Lennon captured before the Beatles became a global phenomenon, have gone on show at a top London gallery.

The collection were taken more than 45 years ago by John Stewart Farrier, a documentary photographer from Faversham.

The images are on show at The Proud Gallery in Chelsea's King's Road.

The 24 x 30-inch silver gelatin photograph is a composite collection of 12 black-and-white images of John Lennon taken on a Rolleiflex camera.

The photographer told KoS this week: "It was so long ago that I can't remember too many details, but I do remember this chap called Lennon coming in to the studio and saying something like 'I will give you 10 minutes and I am smoking'.

"He did not sound too happy to be there. I was fresh out of art school and this is before Beatlemania took off.

"I took these pictures and he was off saying he was going to 'meet the lads'."

The snapper will be presenting a framed photograph to Yoko Ono, Mr Lennon's widow, during her exhibition event at the 2014 Folkestone Triennial.

He added: "I expect this showcase collection of photographs will come as a delightful surprise for Yoko."

A spokesman at the gallery said: "Because the pictures have not been seen since they were taken, they are creating quite a buzz."

The photographer is certainly no stranger to the Beatles.

In February 2012, he also unearthed historic shots of the band in action which he was selling for £2,000 each.

The five photographs of Mr Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison were also taken in the 1960s and emerged when he was looking through rolls of old negatives.

He shot them at the Odeon Cinema in Lewisham during a concert in December 1963.

The negatives needed some modern-day imaging technology to bring them back to life when they went on show at a gallery in Canterbury.

Other famous people to stand in front of his lens include Sir Cliff Richard, Sir Tom Stoppard, Roald Dahl, Ernie Wise, Sir Terry Wogan and the fashion designer Hardy Amies.

He even took photographs of shamed DJ Jimmy Savile.

Among the politicians he captured are Prime Ministers Harold Wilson, James Callaghan, and the Iron Lady herself, Margaret Thatcher with cabinet members Michael Heseltine, Norman Tebbit, Geoffrey Howe, and Ken Clarke.



POP ART: John Stewart Farrier, left, took the 12 black-and-white photos more than 45 years ago

The former Labour Prime Minister James Callaghan once said of Mr Farrier's photographs: "Farrier has demonstrated with this fascinating portfolio collection of images that he is truly a documentary photographer par excellence." And Labour MP Sir Gerald Kaufman added: "These are some of the finest political photographs I have ever seen."

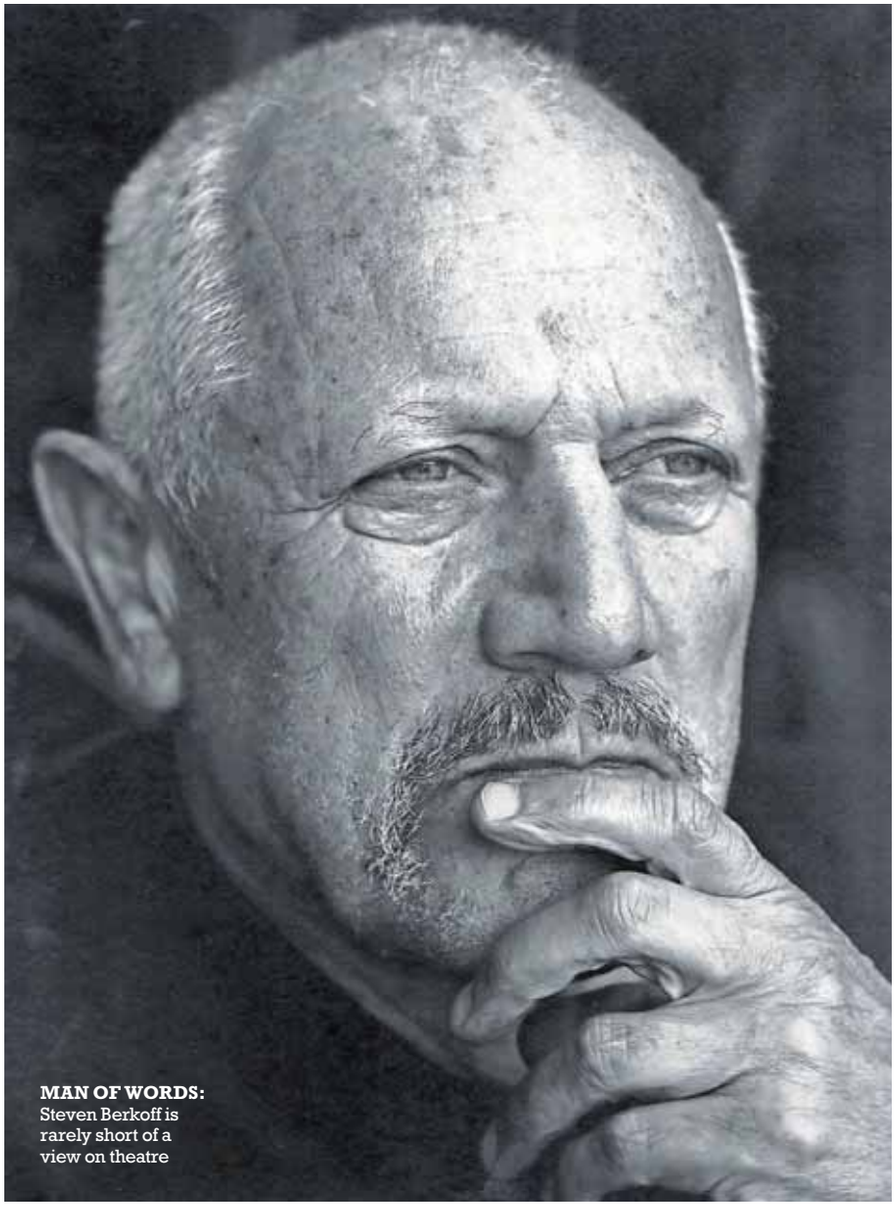






Berkoff, a man who can still find joy in a lament

David Mairs talks to the straight-talking theatrical giant who is bringing his work about the trials and tribulations of his profession to Theatre Royal Margate



MAN OF WORDS: Steven Berkoff is rarely short of a view on theatre

IT'S a measure of Steven Berkoff's passion for what he does that you can listen to him vent his spleen in the most irascible manner and yet feel only admiration and indeed warmth towards him.

Actor, author, playwright and director... Berkoff's range of achievements in the world of theatre, film and television is such that it would take an article on its own just to list them all.

So we will suffice here with just a few to give a flavour of the man. Franz Kafka's Metamorphosis and The Trial, Agamemnon by Aeschylus and Edgar Allan Poe's The Fall Of The House Of Usher are among his most celebrated stage adaptions, while he has directed and toured productions of Shakespeare's Coriolanus, in which he also played the title role, Richard II, Hamlet and Macbeth.

Not one to shy away from the more demanding roles, then, nor one afraid to speak his mind in the most acerbic manner when so moved.

He is a giant in the arena of acting. Hence his forthcoming appearance at Theatre Royal Margate this week in his own work, The Actor's Lament, has created no little excitement.

Although this *enfant terrible* refuses to be accepted as one of the establishment – "I'll never be part of that" – he is happy that he can still stir the emotions.

"I'm very glad if I can sell tickets – it's magnificent testament to the longevity of the work I'm doing and testament to people's need for this bolder, innovative theatre – bolder than the usual fare."

And, Berkoff, it would seem, does not have much time for the usual fare.

"I don't, because it has swayed from the central issue of theatre, which is passion and drama.

"Now it's decorative theatre, less to do with the actor and all about the producer or director."

The Actor's Lament is, in essence, a comedy about the lives of actors, their repeated battles and frustrations and indeed the madness to which they are prone.

> **"Verse is a most exciting form of theatre and closer to very modern poetry – it's like rap"**

Starring with Berkoff in this look at life backstage are Jay Benedict and Andree Bernard. It's a world of precious playwrights, dictatorial directors and unpredictable critics... perhaps it's not so surprising that our thespian brethren sometimes seem such a troubled bunch.

Berkoff has been given, on occasion, to liberally scattering profanity through his productions. Is The Actor's Lament one such work where we have to keep our fingers in our ears?

"No, there's none," he said. "I sometimes swear to make effect and I do say things that are taboo, but there's not any of that here."

What does mark The Actor's Lament, though, is that it is written in verse. Might this deter some people?

"No, not a bit. Verse is a most exciting form of theatre and closer to very modern poetry. There's rhythm, verse and poetic structure – it's like rap. It condenses, heats up the matter.

"Prose can be most exciting as well, of course. You're taking a risk with verse – it tightens the material so it's stronger, hotter."

For someone who has lived such

Continued on page 33 »

» Features Editor:
Dave Mairs
dave.mairs@archant.co.uk
Tel: 01303 817022

Follow us @KOSLeisure or www.kentnews.co.uk/leisure

NTW

saunders park homes *in Kent*

Court Mount, Birchington CT7 0BU

"Best Park in Great Britain"



Luxury Park Home Living for the over 50's at Court Mount Park Home Estate, Birchington - where the high street facilities are just a short walk away.

OPEN WEEKEND

at Court Mount, Birchington, CT7 OBU

24th and 25th May 2014

10am – 4pm

Please telephone 07768 872386 for more details



For a relaxed, warm and friendly atmosphere, a beautiful home and worry free living.

Enjoy the peace of a more traditional village like community where your neighbour is your friend and your lifestyle is comfortable and secure.

Parks at:

The Foxhunter Park
Monkton

Court Mount
Birchington

Bluebell Woods
Broad Oak, Canterbury

for further information visit us at

www.saundersparkhomes.co.uk

or telephone us for a brochure on 01843 821311

« Continued from page 33

a rich life in his chosen environment, there's the risk that The Actor's Lament can come across as little more than a self-indulgent gripe at something he personally has very little to lament. Happily, though, it is more a defence of the art of the actor... a celebration even.

"There's nothing more exciting than to fulfil one's innermost desires and passions," he said.

"What the actor can do is bring to life an experience at the highest level, touch areas that move and inform us.

"You don't have to sell yourself to cheap TV soaps, serials and cop shows. As actors, we deserve better than that ghastly, nightly crap.

"The play is a celebration of what we want to do and a comment on the barriers we face in this area."

And those barriers are?

"The people who stand in the way of our freedom, interfering with the role of the actor, making them subsidiary. The directors who fit the actors into what they see as their way of doing things. The producers, some of whom are just not good enough and who spend their time searching for the latest TV star – it's a gross dereliction of the duty of the producer.

"They scrabble around for the star from the next TV series so that great actors dedicated to theatre are put on the sides."

Berkoff also stresses that The Actor's Lament is not a biographical piece... not entirely, anyway.

"It's not just about me, though it could be. It's about the nature of the actor, who is a messenger of the great playwrights and has the honourable job of interpreting their work.

"The actor was hallowed because of this but has been marginalised and now has to compete with effects, with smoke, revolving stages and lighting trickery.

"This is done by directors who have no idea of the art of the actor, the enthralling work that they do, the sacrifice.

"They're pushed to one side – it's all about the directors and how inventive and how daring they are, when all they really do is push the stage furniture around."

"Theatre luvvies scream a lot in the Press and fall out of cabs... great actors do not behave like this"

As much as we admire the great actors, we are also prone to being a little sneering about the profession. Luvvies, we call them, or darlings. To what extent does Berkoff recognise this particular beast?

"The theatre luvvie is something that's come about in recent years, really. It's a person who wishes that in a thousand years they could get on stage and stun people.

"They scream a lot in the Press and fall out of cabs – every minor utterance is chewed up by the Press. Great actors do not behave like this – you would not call Sir John Gielgud a luvvie.

"The luvvies have cast a bit of a smear – a bad odour. They have always got some attitude. There was an actress squealing the other day 'I never get offered these great roles – they always go to the men'.

"I thought 'Why don't you just go to your local bookshop, get the best plays of the last 100 years and gather some of your silly friends and put them on yourselves' – it's what I did. Instead they're always whining."

Good stuff, Steven, but there's a perhaps surprisingly reasoned view of critics, whom he admits he reads.

"I do read the critics. I also act as a producer so have to promote the play with good quotes. You get these producers and directors who say 'Oh, I don't read the critics', but they're living in a bubble.

"I do read them – if they're bad I'll listen and think about if there's something that needs doing better.

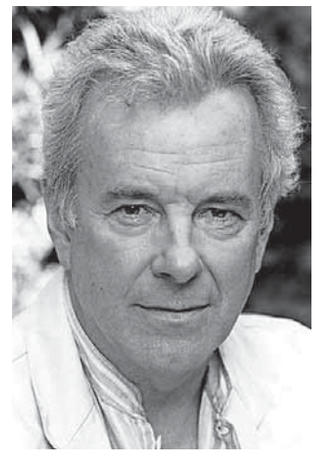
"If they're nasty, vicious and sarcastic, I have only the greatest contempt for them. I can either ignore them or invite them never to come to any of my plays again."

They (or you) have been warned.

■ **The Actor's Lament is at Theatre Royal Margate from Tuesday to Thursday, May 13-15, at 7.30pm (Thursday matinee at 2pm). It is suitable for those aged 14 and above. Tickets are priced at £20 (concessions £15, schools £10). Phone the box office on 01843 292795 or, alternatively, visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com.**







ALL THE WORLD'S A (DIFFICULT) STAGE : Andree Bernard, left, and Jay Benedict will be joining Steven Berkoff in The Actor's Lament at Theatre Royal



To advertise your restaurant here call
01303 817150



ANGEL FLEAMARKET
Angel Centre, Tonbridge TN9 1SF
8am-1pm EVERY FRIDAY • FREE ADMISSION
Lots of vintage and retro bargains
01732 456196 • 07798876857
email: sue.carmichael@btinternet.com

FAMILY DAY | 26th May!
BUCKMORE PARK
www.buckmore4kids.co.uk

MAN, VAN & SAM REMOVALS
No job too small
DSS Welcome. 24 hour service.
Free estimates. Friendly advice and competitive rates.
Storage facility available.
www.manvanandsam.co.uk
01634 280085 07889 308755
Local Authority Approved



Bloomers Restaurant
Cosy, intimate, candlelit, romantic
AS SEEN ON BBC TV
BOOK NOW
01474 322131
15-16 The Overcliffe, Gravesend DA11 0EF
www.overcliffehotelkent.co.uk



The Local Handyman



Plumbing *(City & Guilds Qualified)* ~ Bathrooms
Washing Machines Installed ~ Radiators Moved
Landlords / Property Maintenance ~ Guttering
Painting/Decorating ~ Flat Pack Assembly
Garden Maintenance ~ Hedge Trimming
Laminate Flooring ~ General Repairs ~ Odd Jobs
No job to small ~ References Available
Fully Insured ~ All areas of Kent covered
Call Clive: 07765 663322



Hunt is on for our best gardeners

Our sister publication **Kent Life** is on the search for gardeners as good as last year's winners of Kent's Garden of the Year and Best Primary School Garden. Could it be you? If so, enter this competition, held in association with Hadlow College, Bybrook Barn Garden Centre and chYps Children's Hospice at Home



Amateur Garden of the Year

"WE first heard [editor] Sarah Sturt talking about the Kent Life garden competition with Andy Garland on BBC Radio Kent's Sunday gardening programme," said Eileen Prosser, who, with husband Phil, was the worthy winner of the 2013 contest.

The pair are pictured left.

"Our initial thoughts were that our garden wasn't large or grand enough, but we love our garden and hoped the judges would, too.

"When we had the phone call to say we were one of the five runners-up we were delighted.

"The lovely tea at Hadlow College was a wonderful experience and when we heard we had won, well, that was the icing on the cake, such a wonderful feeling and one we will never forget.

"We bought a beautiful statue with our vouchers and our bench takes pride of place on the patio.

"So even if you do not have a large, grand garden, don't be put off entering – if you love your garden, then, who knows, the judges might, too."



Primary School Garden of the Year

"WE really enjoyed taking part in the competition.

"Since winning, the profile of the garden has risen among the parents and children and most lunchtimes and playtimes there is an increasing number of children wanting to garden," said Paul Curtis, from St Mary's Catholic Primary School, the 2013 Primary School Garden of the Year winners.

"I would recommend all schools enter the competition. Having the photographer and Kent Life's editor visiting the school together was a fantastic experience for our children and, while winning was such a shock, it was equally amazing that their hard work had been rewarded."

More than a pick-up.
A legend.



TOYOTA

ALWAYS A BETTER WAY

72 HOUR TEST DRIVE EXCLUSIVE FOR BUSINESS DRIVERS

Hilux Invincible Double Cab 3.0 D-4D from £269 per month*.
⟨Business Users Only⟩

Hilux is more than a pick-up. It's a legend. Rugged on the outside, refined on the inside, it's the ultimate 24/7 working tool for businesses on the move.

- 171 BHP engine
- Ladder chassis and TOP platform
- Automatic differential switches between 2WD and 4WD
- Toyota Touch™ 2 multimedia
- Cruise control

Motorline Ashford
Orbital Park, Ashford
Kent TN24 0SN
Tel: 0844 822 7122

Motorline Canterbury
Broad Oak Road, Canterbury
Kent, CT2 7RB
Tel: 0844 822 7130

Motorline Tunbridge Wells
Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells,
Kent, TN2 3UY
Tel: 0844 822 7169

motorline.toyota.co.uk

Model shown is Hilux Invincible Double Cab 3.0 manual basic price £21,759.17 excluding VAT and on the road charges. Price correct at time of going to press. *Offers available to business users only on models shown when ordered, registered and financed between 1st April 2014 and 30th June 2014 through Toyota Financial Services on a three year non-maintained Toyota Contract Hire agreement with an initial rental of £1,614 + VAT. At participating Centres. Offers based on 10,000 miles per annum, excess mileage charges apply. Metallic and pearlescent paint not included. Other offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Subject to availability. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC. Registered Office: Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, KT18 5UZ. Registered in England with Number 02299961. VAT Registration Number 991 2659 83. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. For full details of terms and conditions applicable to the 72 hour test drive please visit www.72hourtestdrive.co.uk. Vehicles are subject to availability and drivers must be 25 years or older.

Hilux Invincible Double Cab 3.0. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg, Urban 29.7, Extra Urban 42.2, Combined 36.7. CO_2 Emissions 203g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

Important information

ENTRIES are now being invited for this year's 2014 Kent Life Amateur Garden of the Year and Best Primary School Garden competitions.

This is the fifth year our sister publication Kent Life has run the awards, and this year the event has new supporters.

Joining sponsor Hadlow College, which has backed the competition from year one and provided the venue and high tea for the afternoon prize-giving ceremony, are Bybrook Barn Garden Centre and Kent Life's Charity of the Year, chYps or Children's Hospice at Home.

The Ashford garden centre is generously providing the two overall winners' benches, plus vouchers to spend at the store for the winners and runners-up.

Don't miss your chance to win some of the fabulous prizes – enter today!

RULES

Closing date for entries: Friday, June 13

Eight finalists will be selected and visited by the judging panel, headed by Roger Platts, award-winning garden designer, grower and plantsman, after June 13, 2014.

All finalists' gardens will be photographed by Kent Life before July 1. Finalists will be invited to a celebratory high tea at Hadlow College on September 18, when the winners and runners-up will be announced.

Photographs and sketches cannot be returned, and by submitting them you are agreeing to their use in Kent Life and its associated website and publications.

CRITERIA

The panel will look at the overall design, planting, maintenance, special features and personal connection. In addition, for schools, the children's involvement, ecological and educational processes will be considered.

HOW TO ENTER

Fill in the entry form below and either email your entry to editor@kent-life.co.uk or post to Kent Life Garden Competition, Kent Life, Archant Kent, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, near Ashford TN25 6SS.

You can also visit www.kent-life.co.uk.

Category One

Amateur Garden of the Year

Open to all amateur gardeners, whatever the size of your garden

How to enter

- Complete the entry form below
- Attach a written description of your garden and what it means to you
- Include up to six photographs taken either last season or this year that show overviews and details
- Add a sketch plan
- Send in by post or email, or enter online at www.kent-life.co.uk

First prize:

- Engraved bench from Bybrook Barn
- Framed personalised certificate
- £250 Bybrook Barn Garden Centre vouchers
- Pictorial feature in Kent Life

Four runners-up:

- Framed personalised certificate
- £100 Bybrook Barn Garden Centre vouchers

Category Two

Primary School Garden of the Year

Open to all primary schools in Kent where gardening is part of your curriculum and where the children are actively involved in a gardening club

How to enter

- Complete the entry form below
- Attach a written description of the school garden and any supporting programmes
- Include up to six photographs
- Optional: add some pictures/input from the children
- Send in by post or email, or enter online at www.kent-life.co.uk

First prize:

- Engraved bench from Bybrook Barn
- Framed personalised certificate
- £250 Bybrook Barn Garden Centre vouchers
- Pictorial feature in Kent Life

Two runners-up:

- Framed personalised certificate
- £100 Bybrook Barn Garden Centre vouchers

chYps Children's Hospices "Hospice care for children & young people"

Bybrook Barn Garden Centre

HADLOW COLLEGE

Entry Form 2014

Category One Garden of the Year ☐ **Category Two** Primary School Garden of the Year ☐

Your name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Postcode:.....

Telephone:.....

Email:.....

* **DON'T FORGET!** Have you included?...

Description ☐ Photographs ☐ Plan of the garden ☐

* Entries are invalid without all supporting material

Chalkwell

DayBreaks & Holidays by Coach



Buxton Military Tattoo

Friday 4th July 2014 - Adult £215.00

Held in one of the town's historic buildings, formerly an 18th Century stable block, Dome is now the University of Derby and offers a breath-taking setting for the Buxton Military Tattoo. Founded by the Romans, Buxton is one of the most popular destinations in the Peak District.

Your stay will be at the prestigious 19th century country house, Shrigley Hall, set on the edge of the Peak District National Park. Your stay will include 2 nights dinner from a chioce of menus in the beautiful Oakridge Restaurant, breakfast both mornings and a welcome drink on arrival. You will have free use of the leisure facilities to relax and enjoy, before heading off to the matinee performance at the Buxton Tattoo. Free time in Buxton will allow you to explore the historic Georgian Crescent or perhaps fill up your bottle at St Anne's Well! *... Book this not to be missed trip now!.*



Battlefields Tour with Guide and Dinner

20th October 2014 - Adult £70.00

Join us to experience Wipers – the historic Ypres Salient - one of the most infamous battlefields of WWI. Visit locations which each tell a story about part of what the soldiers endured here.

Not only will you have plenty of time to explore, there are also these these not to be missed highlights all inlcuded! ● The touching Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate ● Essex Farm Cemetery where a Canadian doctor wrote 'Flanders Fields' ● Langemarck German War Cemetery ● Hill 60 & the Caterpillar. Not only is there all of this but your tour quide will be an ex-military! A two course dinner with tea/coffee is also included as well as your Eurotunnel crossing, *... Book your day trip now!*

For more information call 01795 423982
or visit www.chalkwell.co.uk
Quote 'ARC 87' when you book.

COACH TOURISM COUNCIL · cpt · COACH MARQUE

Celebrate in Style

Coming soon, our new Champagne Lounge Bar

Whatever your event we can cater for you in our newly refurbished function room, Call to enquire about our package prices.



Red Lion

Circa 1364
Crockham Lane, Hernhill, Kent, ME13 9JR

01227 751207
www.theredlion.org



COME TASTE THE BRAND: Muna Sicander and Muna Khorsheed with Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark at the Oliver Greens grocery in Rusthall

The two Munas share their saucy secrets

David Mairs learns about the sisters-in-law whose products are creating a stir

IF you want affirmation that your culinary venture is on the right track, then seeing your products stocked by Harrods is as good as it gets.

BisBas was founded by two sisters-in-law who hail from the Yemeni city of Aden but now reside in the Tunbridge Wells area. They have used their love of cooking to set up the company – and Middle Eastern sauces are their speciality.

Muna Khorsheed, 44, and Muna Sicander, 43, are the force behind BisBas, the name coming from the Arabic for chilli.

The pair are proving so successful with what they're doing that Harrods, the country's swishest department store, is selling their "secret" sauces, which come in three varieties:

- Fozia, a tomato and coriander Arabian sauce with black-onion seeds and green chillies
- Safia, a tomato-based sauce with flavours of garlic and herbs
- Saba, a spinach and coriander sauce

"Harrods are, of course, very particular about what they sell, but we sent them our products and they loved them," said Khorsheed.

"They liked the jars and the packaging and the concept of what we're doing. They thought it was great and ordered!"

The Middle East is a huge area and it's not possible to define its similarly expansive culinary range in one generic term, but, even so, it is not as familiar to British diners as is that, for example, of India.

So can Khorsheed articulate to a degree what we might expect?

After pondering for a while, she decided that no, she couldn't, but did say: "We use spice mixes that we brought with us from Aden – they're not as spicy as Indian, but they are more flavoursome. People can add chilli to make them as hot as they like without losing flavour."

Khorsheed came to England when she was six and Sicander, who is married to Khorsheed's brother, when she was 19. They have seen this country's culinary experience explode.

"When I came to England, Indian food was just coming to people's attention. Now everybody is cooking all sorts of things and travelling further afield, so we thought we could give them a taste of something different and bottle our sauces.

"We've always loved home cooking and these recipes have been in the family for years.

"We have kids at university and we want them to be able to open a jar and cook with something that hasn't got artificial preservatives, flavourings or colours."

The two Munas started producing sauces for a wider public from their Kentish kitchens about three years ago – "it took that long just to get them into a jar and labelled" – but BisBas was only launched in September last year.

Now, those kitchens in Pembury and Rusthall are not able to cope with demand and the sauces are made in Newbury, Berkshire.

The taste of the Middle East, it would seem, is catching on.

■ BisBas sauces are available in delicatessens and independent stores, including all 13 outlets of JC Rook & Sons butchers.







NTW

» For more food and drink articles pick up a copy of this month's KENT LIFE

Italian charm of a hidden gem is making it a star of city's scene



Pinocchio's

Location: Canterbury

By **Chris Britcher**

THERE is nothing more appealing than when the reputation of a restaurant starts to spread – especially if the diner in question is far from the maddening crowd.

Granted, it's not that far from the masses that throng around Canterbury city centre, but Italian eatery Pinocchio's in Castle Street is not on the busy main thoroughfare and is a little too close to a grim multi-storey car park and a betting shop to be a must-see when visiting the picturesque destination.

Yet its reputation has taken flight. And not without reason.

Because Pinocchio's actually manages to deliver a rather authentic experience that provides an informal setting and wraps it up in an atmosphere as intoxicating as a Venetian waterway.

The service is the stand-out dish here. It is supremely efficient and friendly. There are no anxious long delays, and even on a Friday night when the tables were filling up – although it was far from packed – the service was absolutely on the ball.

The décor hinted very much at a traditional Italian trattoria, less formal and stuffy than the new wave of restaurants where style is an equal to substance. It was functional and maybe just a little dated.

It was apparent, too, that it was heavy on repeat custom, with staff greeting regulars and finding time to chat about the food and wine, as well as chewing the fat, as they went.

Strangely, that is something many restaurants find too easy to forget, spending too much time on decorations and frills to the food to remember that, more often than not, you can buy popularity and support by simply providing a platform for an enjoyable evening.

The menu is classic Italian – and as we settled we picked at olives and home-made bread, served with olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

In addition to the familiar line-up of pasta, pizza, risotti, the menu is spiced up with a number of specials.

So for starters I plumped for cuttlefish off the board. I thought it was a treat for budgerigars and was pleasantly surprised to discover it's a treat for those of us without feathers, too (it's like a chewy squid but tasty and served up in a light batter).

I remained 'off-piste' for the locally-sourced rump of lamb in a red wine and rosemary sauce for the main course. The meat was cooked in strips and, while tasty, was perhaps just a little humdrum.

And here's the rub. The food wasn't exceptional. In fact I'd say it was reasonable but not outstanding; it lacked a little imagination in delivery and subtlety of tastes. In truth, there are plenty of rivals who can serve up a tastier spread.

But Pinocchio's still serves a solid meal and garnishes it with fantastic service and convivial atmosphere. In short, it has the elusive 'X factor'.

The total cost for two for three courses, nibbles, a bottle of wine and a glass of Prosecco was about £88.

■ **Pinocchio's**
64 Castle Street, Canterbury CT1 2PY (phone 01227 457538, website www.pinocchioscanterbury.com)

UP TO 75% OFF FLOORING FOR THROUGHOUT YOUR HOME

FOR YOUR LOUNGE.....FOR YOUR BEDROOM.... FOR YOUR BATHROOM







The Rug House Canterbury
Within Nasons, Maynard Road, Wincheap Estate
Canterbury CT1 3RQ
Tel: 01227 450 802 www.therughouseuk.com

Bybrook Barn
Your Independent Garden Centre

MORE THAN JUST A GARDEN CENTRE

1,000S OF PLANTS TO BRIGHTEN YOUR GARDEN



FACTORY WAREHOUSE FURNITURE CLEARANCE UP TO 75% OFF



Open daily Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm

Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford TN24 9JZ (M20 Junction 9, A28)

Tel: 01233 631959 | **www.bybrook-barn.co.uk**

Homes & Gardens

www.kentnews.co.uk May 2014



Moving on up

It's the time of year that our flowers and shrubs are bursting into a riot of colour and vitality



Recipe for success

Planning tips for a new kitchen

See page 47 »



Planting the seed

Gardening can be child's play

See pages 48-49 »



Root of the problem

Dispelling the garden myths

See page 51 »

Orchard Fencing ltd

Huge Stock - Low Prices



Catford 020 8698 4064
Ardoch Road, Catford, London SE6 1SZ

Erith 01322 347799
Landau Way, Darent Park Industrial Estate, Wallhouse Road, Erith, Kent DA8 2LF

Welling 020 8855 6961
Stephenson Close, Welling, Kent DA16 3AT

info@orchardfencing.co.uk | www.orchardfencing.co.uk

to get 10% off any in store purchases show this ad at Little Fish Shop

Central American cichlid • Guppy + other live barers • Tetra
Jellyfish • Lionfish • Foxface • Clownfish • Damsels • Chromis
Tangs • Surgeons • Anemones

Little Fish Shop
Aquatic Centre

Established in 1999, we are now extremely well known for our friendly yet professional customer service and advice. We specialise in providing many types of marine, pond, cold water and tropical fish to fill your aquarium, as well as fish tanks to help you grow your collection!



For all your Aquatic needs:
• Marine • Tropical • Coldwater
• Ponds • Aquariums
• Pond Plants
• Glass Fibre Ponds
• Pumps
• Liners and much more

Also now available
• Chicken Coops
• Rabbit • Guinea Pig Hutches & Runs

www.littlefishshop.co.uk
42 London Road • Teynham • ME9 9QN
01795 520023
Monday-Saturday 10am-6pm Sunday 10am-4pm



At MBK Kitchens and Bathrooms we pride ourselves in helping you make the right decision for your home improvement

Call us to make your dreams a reality
& SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TRADER

Proud member of Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters

FREE Survey, FREE Design, FREE Quotations

01622 619876

The Oast, Clock House Farm Heath Rd, Coxheath, Maidstone ME17 4PB

www.m-b-k.co.uk

MBK Design Studio
Est 1987
PASSIONATE ABOUT KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

A Family Day Out

The Kent Garden Show

Sat 24th - Mon 26th May

The Kent Showground, Detling
Maidstone ME14 3JF
M20 Junction 7 or M2 Junction 5

Show open 9.30 am - 5 pm
Adults £7.00 - Seniors £6.00
Over 300 exhibitors!
Children FREE - Sorry - No dogs

A wide selection of Plants, Sundries, Stunning Floral Displays (some are Chelsea and Hampton Court medal winners), Feature Gardens, Expert Forums, Demonstrations, Crafts, Food Hall, Quiz-Time, Brass Band, Children's Rides, Catering etc.....

Stands inside & outside - Tickets available on the gate

www.KentGardenShow.com - InfoLine (01795) 474660

All the tools you need

Here at carpet and flooring tools we offer a vast selection of innovative, efficient, and easy to use professional flooring tools, supplying the flooring and associated industries nationwide.

We provide the very latest in floor installation technology – for contract and domestic projects – covering tools for vinyl, wood and carpet installation.



So whether you need to prepare, cut, seam, weld, we offer the best range of products available.

CARPET & FLOORING TOOLS .CO.UK

Artificial Lawn CENTRE

Here at Artificial Grass Centre we sell a wide range of various different types of artificial grass and turf.

Call **01634 720411** and a member of our staff will be happy to assist you in choosing the correct type of grass

We offer an installation and delivery service throughout South East England, please contact us for more details.

Unit 8 Ballard Business Park, Cuxton Road, Strood, Kent ME2 2NY
www.artificiallawncentre.co.uk









Asking the right questions key to fulfilling your new kitchen needs

NONE of us have the perfect kitchen, the perfect space for optimum usage.

Unless we designed our house around that room, we are all working with what we have.

But that does not mean we have to compromise on the quality of a new kitchen. What needs to be considered is what you do in your kitchen.

Working with an existing kitchen, which already may be perfect for your needs, create a list of the issues you have: whether it is storage space, worktop space, no dishwasher, sink too large *etc*.

Once you have formulated your list, any capable designer will be able to create the kitchen of your dreams.

Designers may have the knowledge of all the additions and accessories available on the market that will go to create this kitchen, but it must remain your kitchen and fit in with the way you want to work in it.

Fashion provides as many tips as bad ideas in kitchen design.

Islands are often requested, but not every house can have an island; often the island will create more problems than it was designed to solve.

Appliances are obviously critical, but you must choose carefully and not buy an oven or combi microwave because you were advised so by the shop.

Remember, you need to be sure it suits your needs; after all, you will be the one using it.

Nowadays, dishwashers are probably the most popular kitchen addition and the right choice of dishwasher can save you money in running costs. It is these questions you should be asking before buying.

Designing the cabinets in any kitchen is not a difficult task – they are all very standard.

But what is important is creating the correct combination to fill the space required, ensuring accessiblity, and that any corners have really good storage solutions.

Worktops will always cause problems due to the choice; every type of worktop, from laminate to granite, will have its disadvantages and advantages. Price and usability will determine what type of tops you require and, again, any good designer should advise you about these.

Remember, you need to be sure it suits your needs; after all you will be the one using it...

However, remember there is always a reason some products cost more than others – it's not always due to the quality – but by asking the right questions you should be able to make a valid judgment and help create your perfect kitchen.

So if you want to update your kitchen, visit a local showroom and talk to an adviser who understands your needs – and who can solve your problems.



Make gardening child's play

Hannah Stephenson speaks to horticultural educator Andrea Fowler, who is keen on inspiring our next generation of gardeners and has some clever tips on planting the seed of interest in young minds



WITH fine weather looming ahead of us, many parents will be wanting to sort out their gardens – and hopefully encouraging their children to give them a hand along the way.

Andrea Fowler, horticultural educator at RHS Garden Wisley, points out that attracting wildlife, seed-sowing and vegetable-growing are all sources of inspiration to young gardeners.

"Spring is definitely here, so we can be seed-sowing and planting in earnest," she says.

"If you're sowing seeds with children, sow something that's going to spark their imagination.

"Plant flower seeds which children will be excited about, like calendula – there's a calendula called Porcupine, which is an extra-spiky pot marigold. There's also cornflower Blue Boy and sunflowers, which everyone loves.

"Nasturtiums are fantastic and make great container plants, so you don't need to have a huge garden – you can just grow them in a window box. Herbs are also great.

"If you're growing veg with children, have a go with Pink Fir Apple potatoes [a maincrop variety with knobbly pink-skinned tubers of butter-yellow, waxy flesh] or purple potatoes, purple beans and yellow tomatoes, which will get them interested."

'Most children love worms. If you are working in the garden, let them dig them with a trowel... they'll love it.'

Attracting wildlife into the garden will also engage the children, so help them build a mini-beast hotel (although autumn can be a better time to do this, when wildlife is looking to hibernate).

A simple bug hotel can be made from a collection of hollow stems packed into a plastic bottle with the end cut off. Several hotels could be placed in different positions, such as on the ground among vegetation, fixed on top of a post, next to a wall, halfway up a hedge, in a tree, under a bird table.

Grander bug hotels can be made by piling up a variety of materials into a tower, or making a wooden frame with a series of compartments and packing these with different fillings.

Remember that rotting wood is both a home and source of food for various beetle grubs and a vast army of other mini-beasts, which in turn make a tasty snack for birds, hedgehogs and frogs, so leave an area of the garden wild and build a log pile with the children.

Fowler says: "Most children love worms. If you are working in the garden, let them dig with a trowel and they'll love it. But don't let them chop the worms in half."

You could also help your children make a bird cake, using fat, good-quality wild birdseed, raisins,







peanuts and grated cheese.

Just leave the fat in a warm place to soften, put the other ingredients into a bowl, chop the fat into small pieces and add to the mixture, mixing it together using fingers or a spoon. Put the mixture into a yoghurt pot to hang from your bird table or roll into balls to place on it.

"We need to get the next generation inspired by gardening," Fowler says.

As we all know, there's no time like the present.

Pottering around...

What to do this week

- Continue to sow tender crops in the greenhouse, including tomatoes, aubergine and peppers
- **Remove floating electric pond-heaters once the weather warms up and the risk of thick ice developing has passed**
- Improve surface drainage on your lawn by hollow-spiking it
- **Keep grass trimmed back from the base of trees growing in grass as this can compete for moisture and nutrients**
- If you haven't yet done so, spread a mulch of compost or similar over beds and borders to suppress annual weeds and conserve moisture
- **Plant gladioli corms at intervals in the coming months to prolong their flowering season**
- Protect azaleas and other tender plants such as Japanese maples from frost and freezing winds by keeping old net curtains or horticultural fleece handy to spread over or wrap around plants at risk
- **Plant a patch of comfrey in a sunny corner of the kitchen garden as the leaves are great to add to compost and can be used to make a liquid feed**
- Damp down the greenhouse floor on warm days to increase humidity, opening vents to prevent temperatures rising too much but closing them at night
- **Divide large congested clumps of pampas grass**



Bramblecrest 'Sahara Modular Set'
4 Piece modular sofa set, sofa and seat back cushions, Sahara footsool and cushion
Our usual price £1901 **Event price £1499**

Fresh Spring ideas for your garden with up to **4 Years Free Credit.**
Please ask for further details.



Bramblecrest 'Biscay 150'
150cm Circular table, 60cm lazy Susan, 3m parasol, granite base, 6 armchairs and cushions
Our usual price £2223
Event price £1889



Bramblecrest 'Sahara 212 Set'
212 x 150cm Oval table, 2 Sahara armchairs and cushions, 6 Sahara chairs and cushions, 75cm woven lazy Susan, 3m aluminium parasol, granite base
Our usual price £2511
Event price £1999



Bramblecrest 'Kuta'
240cm Reclaimed Teak table with 6 side chairs and 2 carvers, Cushions included
Our usual price £2621
Event price £1999

Lowest prices Guaranteed + Free delivery

www.myonlinebrochure.co.uk/fenwick/furniturespring14/

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US

Fenwick
CANTERBURY
tel: 01227 766866 www.fenwick.co.uk

GARDENING WORLD LIMITED

Tel:
01795 841199

GARDEN CENTRE

Open 7 days a week
Mon – Sat 9-5
Sun 10-4

www.gardeningworldlimited.co.uk

Come and find us: Just off the A2 (Rainham side) Newington, Nr Sittingbourne ME9 7SZ



We are a large centre stocking a huge range of excellent quality garden plants:
Bedding Plants, Roses, Perennials, Herbs, Specimen Trees and Shrubs, Grasses, Palms, Young Trees and Shrubs, Bamboos, Climbing Plants, Hanging Baskets



















Senior Citizens can claim **10% off**
their plants MONDAY to FRIDAY *(but not weekends)*
TRADE DISCOUNTS ALSO AVAILABLE



Daisy Chain Tearoom
Open
10am to 4pm DAILY



On site we have a unique African Craft Centre stocked with a HUGE selection of hand made African artifacts. Come and see our amazing range of • ELEPHANTS • GIRAFFES • DRUMS • MASKS • POTTERY • WOODEN FURNITURE
Plus Lots More!









Digging the dirt on old wives' tales

Guy Barter, the RHS chief horticultural adviser, is keen to dispel a number of misconceptions that have found their insidious way into gardeners' folklore

IF you think that ivy kills trees, watering scorches leaves and digging is always needed to control weeds, think again.

The Royal Horticultural Society is putting the record straight on a number of old wives' tales that have worked their way into the gardening psyche.

Here, Guy Barter, RHS chief horticultural adviser, busts open some of the most famous myths.

Myth...

Ivy kills trees

Barter says: "Ivy is thought to seldom kill trees of itself, but the presence of ivy indicates the very strong suspicion of root disease, especially honey fungus, doing serious harm to the host and allowing the ivy to flourish under the diminished canopy."

Myth...

Wild flowers are easy

Barter says: "Gardens are often just too rich and fertile for wild flowers, so that the desirable flowers fade away and rampant grasses take over.

"Mixes of annual flowers that resemble wild flowers, on the other hand, are easy and highly beneficial to many insects and a wiser choice for fertile gardens."

Myth...

Water droplets on leaves cause burning from the sun's rays

Barter says: "To focus sunlight, a water droplet needs to be above the leaf, and this can very occasionally happen with hairy-leaved plants (French beans, for example), but in almost all cases scorching is not caused by wet leaves.

"Spraying leaves with pesticides or liquid fertiliser in sunny conditions can cause harm, however, as the water evaporates and the chemicals become concentrated so can harm foliage."

Myth...

Raised beds are best for growing crops

Barter says: "Raised beds are a great idea for ill-drained clay soils in wet regions, where they enhance drainage and make avoidance of compacting wet soil by trampling easier.

"But on other soils they enhance drainage to the point of drought (greatly increasing drought susceptibility) and impede flexibility in cropping as sprawling plants are hard to include in a strictly-defined bed. Therefore gardeners may do a lot of hard work at considerable expense for fewer crops."

Myth...

Moss is always a nuisance in gardens

Barter says: "Moss is a sign that the soil is moist for prolonged periods. This happens when the soil is compacted, acidic or shaded. Moss has no roots and cannot compete significantly with plant roots.

"In beds and borders it is a useful cover, suppressing weed germination and limiting water loss. In lawns, moss can indicate areas where perhaps grass should not be grown, under shade for example, where alternative plantings might be required. As moss cannot withstand treading, the presence of moss in lawns can indicate a lack of traffic and suggest that as access is not required then alternatives to lawns can be sought."



WHITE LIES: Raised flower beds, wild flowers and nuisance moss are all fables that gardeners have had to tackle





Myth...

Ground cover plants save work

Barter says: "Depending on the type of plant you use, ground-cover plants can soon become so thick that laborious pruning and thinning is required.

"Sooner or later, perennial weeds set up camp in ground cover and have to be winkled out by hand as weedkillers and hoes cannot be used.

"Around trees and shrubs, ground cover acts as a particularly pernicious 'weed' unless carefully controlled."

Myth...

Digging is required to control weeds

Barter says: "The main reason for digging weeds is control, as burial of weeds is highly effective. But if weeds are controlled by other means such as mulches, herbicides or shallow hoeing, digging can be dispensed with.

"The only fly in this ointment is that sometimes weed control by other means can take longer and be harder work than digging, so it is not necessarily true for every site."

Myth...

Plants like being spoken to

Barter says: "With neither ears nor language, it seems improbable that the spoken word has much effect on plants, although it may be therapeutic to the chatting gardeners themselves!"

This year's must-have garden accessories on show at Chelsea

THE RHS Chelsea Flower Show will again be announcing its Chelsea Garden Product of the Year, showcasing the must-have new products for gardeners.

Launched in 2011 to recognise the best products on the market, the event is judged by an expert panel of garden journalists, industry buyers and entrepreneurs, taking into account innovation, appeal, functionality, quality, value for money and environmental sustainability.

From a sneak peek at the 17 short-listed products, here are some of the most practical and affordable contenders:

- If you have a problem protecting tender crops against insects, look out for Tendamesh (£9.99, www.agralan.co.uk), a lightweight mesh that does the job brilliantly.
- Avoid back-breaking bulb-planting with Burgon & Balls's Stainless Long Handled Bulb Planter (RRP £29.95, www.burgonandball.com), which slices through soil with ease.
- Gaze Burvill craftsmen have created a superbly comfortable outdoor bar-stool from sustainably-forested oak. The A La Carte bar stool is priced £720, available from www.gazeburvill.com.
- Harrod Horticultural is short-listed for its new Stormproof Vegetable Cage, which features ingenious new Frame Saver Clips to save frameworks from hurricanes and snow while keeping plants protected (£49, www.harrodhorticultural.com).
- The new Pico Reel, a pint-sized version from Hozelock (RRP £29.99, www.hozelock.com), is just the job for watering small garden spaces.
- If you don't want to damage your outdoor walls, Plant Prop may be the answer. It is great for holding plants against a wall without the need for nails (£10 for a pack of three, www.plantsupports.co.uk).
- Gentle lighting is achieved with the Napoli Solar Garden Light (£24.99, www.solartechnology.co.uk), whose lithium-ion battery is charged from an internal solar panel to give a 2.4-metre downward light pool, plus an upward soft accent.
- If sustainability is your thing, invest in some Twool Rope, ideal for tying in trees and shrubs or for a plethora of other uses. It's made from twool twine and is outstanding in strength, stretch and breaking load (from £3.50 to £21, www.twool.co.uk).

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show runs from May 20-24 in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. For details, visit www.rhs.org.uk.





SO DELIGHTFUL: Little Mockbeggar Farm and Moonrakers, right, will both be opening their doors to the public

Gardens spring into action for charity fund-raiser

TWO fabulous country gardens in Biddenden are opening their gates to the public next month for a fantastic afternoon of flowers, food and fun.

The two are just a few hundred yards apart; one a delightful country cottage garden, the other an extremely pretty part-terraced garden, and between them they offer a magnificent selection of herbaceous perennials, annuals, shrubs, roses and climbers, with the picture completed by kitchen gardens, cutting gardens, wildflower meadows, wildlife ponds and orchard areas.

And as if that wasn't enough, there is also an Animal Corner with goats, ponies, chickens, ducks and geese and plenty of country stalls, including a plant nursery, crafts, cards, books, garden furniture, bric-a-brac and a raffle.

And when you're ready to take a bit of a break, there will be cream teas, home-made cakes and ice creams available.

One of the organisers, Fiona Chapman, said: "This is the fifth year we have opened up our gardens, and we love it. We enjoy meeting new people and it's our way of raising money for a wonderful cause and sharing our passion for gardening and country life."

Entry is by donation, with all money raised going to Macmillan and its vital work for people affected by cancer. There is also plenty of parking, but no dogs or wheelchair access.

It is all happening from 1pm-6pm on Sunday, June 29, at Little Mockbeggar Farm and Moonrakers, Mockbeggar Lane, Biddenden TN27 8ES, so come and have a wander round these two lovely gardens and soak up the sun... hopefully!

ROSEMARY NURSERIES



Bedding plants £1.80 per pack
Basket plants including black petunias and the new Johnny Flame £1.40 each - Baskets from £5.00 to £18.00.
Bring your baskets in for us to fill and collect when ready.
Beautiful Roses £6.00 each - Summer flowering Clematis also the new French patio Clematis - Shrubs - Trees
Open every day – Opening times: Mon to Sat 9-5 Sun 10-4
Manston Road, Margate CT9 4LT
01843 823282 - yell.com
Find us between the Spitfire Museum @Kent Int. Airport & Margate Crematorium

Pro-Fit Blinds
PROFESSIONALLY FITTED SHUTTERS, BLINDS & CURTAINS
10% DISCOUNT WHEN YOU QUOTE "HG10"
We supply and professionally fit domestic & commercial customers with all types of shutters, blinds, curtains & patio awnings
www.pro-fitblinds.co.uk | 07704 764 076 | 07709 178 459
Unit 72 Joseph Wilson Industrial Est., Millstrood Road, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3PS (appointment only)
40 YEARS COMBINED EXPERIENCE

STONE FLOORING SPECIALISTS
SHOWROOM OPEN 6 DAYS



THE STONE TILE WAREHOUSE
Visit our Warehouse-Showroom Unit 10, Integra ME, Bircholt Road, Parkwood, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9GQ
01622 679157
www.thestonetilewarehouse.co.uk
Here at The Stone Tile Warehouse our comprehensive range of products are especially sourced to offer excellent value.
Expert advice and installation service available



To advertise in this section
please call 01303 817150
Email: sales@kosmedia.co.uk

AQUATICS

AQUATICS WAREHOUSE KENT LTD
WWW.AQUATICWAREHOUSEKENT.CO.UK
KOI, COLDWATER & TROPICAL FISH
PONDS, PUMPS, FOODS, FILTRATION, HEATERS, TANKS, ACCESSORIES
POND & TANK MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION, OUTSIDE WORK & BUILDS
ALL YOU NEED FOR COLD WATER & TROPICAL FISH
BASEMENT, REAR OF 114 HIGH STREET, HERNE BAY, KENT, CT6 5JY
01227 368824

BUILDING

BATHROOMS OR WET ROOMS TAILORED TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS
TRUEDEN
TRUEDEN Disability Adaptations Ltd
1 Avenue Road, Herne Bay, CT6 8TA 01227 749 830
www.trueden-disability-access.co.uk
All internal door widening and alterations, ramp installation:
Internal, external or flexible (inc concrete ramps), hand rails, grab rails, support poles etc
Small family run business, reputable and reliable

DAYS OUT

Beech Court
Gardens & Tea Rooms
*Open
18th April - 30th September 2014
10.30am - 5.30pm
Closed Fridays and Mondays
except groups by arrangement
Open Public Holidays
*Wheelchair friendly except when wet weather. The owners reserve the right to close the gardens without notice if necessary.
Canterbury Road
(A252) ■ Challock ■ Ashford ■ Kent TN25 4DJ
Telephone: 01233 740735
Email: info@beechcourtgardens.co.uk ■ www.beechcourtgardens.co.uk

DRIVEWAYS

OUR WORK SPEAKS FOR ITSELF
We offer a full service including advice on planning, hard landscaping designs and no obligation quotations within 24 hours of enquiry.
So choose Terswin Paving for your next Landscaping project.
Tel: 01797 344266 or 07836 298020
Email: enquiries@terswinpaving.com
Web: www.terswinpaving.com
TERSWINPAVING Ltd
Brett Approved
Established 1971

DOUBLE GLAZING

Do you need that extra living space ?..
.. If so our Glassrooms are the affordable answer individually designed around you and starting at just £3995.
Expert advice
Professional Installation
For your free design and quotation
Telephone : 0333 323 2023
www.glassrooms4u.com

DRAINAGE & PLUMBING

PLUMBERS
as through written Direct
● Free Estimate Service
● 24 Hour Call Out
● Skilled Plumber on Call
Direct Line to Enginner
07745253292

ELECTRICAL

SOUTHGATE
ELECTRICAL SERVICES
Rewires, alterations, aerials, alarms.
FREE quotations. 'Fully Qualified'
For enquiries call
01227 712790
07889 895394
NICEIC APPROVED CONTRACTOR
NICEIC DOMESTIC INSTALLER

FITTED CARPETS

CARPET MILLS
MAIDSTONE
HUGE CHOICE
MASSIVE SAVINGS
Unit E, Hart Street,
Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8RF
Mon - Sat 9am - 6pm Sun 10 am - 4pm
We are an independent Family run business in Hart Street Maidstone, Established for 23 years, we are always here to offer sound advice and pride ourselves on our customer care.
Visit us at our 6000 sq.ft showroom in Maidstone. We hold over 5000 sq.m of Flooring including Carpets, Vinyl flooring, Laminates and Rugs or shop from the comfort of your own home with our Free expert measuring and advice service. We can bring a wide selection of samples and give you a no obligation quote on the spot.
CALL TODAY 01622 662770

STOVES

We're expanding our
SPRING 2014 OFFER
Our offer now covers a far greater range of log and fuel multi-fuel stoves, giving you even more chance to save money.
Call us on 01227 266209
www.whitstablestoveshop.co.uk
2 Saddleton Road, CT5 4JB
WHITSTABLE STOVE SHOP
HETAS Always use a HETAS registered installer

TOOL HIRE

RAPID PLANT & TOOL HIRE
Swale 01795 423505 Maidstone 01622 320039
Medway 01634 540027 Canterbury 01227 250051
STOCKISTS OF HONDA POWER EQUIPMENT & STIHL
GARDEN MACHINERY FOR SALE
MINI-DIGGERS FROM £90
ROTOVATORS FROM £35
CEMENT MIXERS FROM £13

feedback

your say...

Send us your views.
Write to:
KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SS.
Email:
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Twitter:
@kosmedia

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Ashford scheme

I AM incensed that Ian McClintock keeps distorting the facts (KoS, letters, last week).

The majority of people in Ashford do not want the Chilmington Green development. I alone collected 1,500 signatures and the sense of injustice felt by the people I spoke to, I hope comes out in May, 2015.

The previous letter on the same page from John Atkins, of Greatstone, says it all. This development is going to blight the lives of the people of Ashford for 25 years.

It will cause gridlock on the roads with 46,000 extra car movements a day. The hospital will never cope.

It is not only Chilmington – in all they are looking to build 31,000 in Ashford and nobody wants that

The only people in Ashford that want this development are those with an agenda.

Mick Carr, Kingsnorth

Don't forget the county elections

I WRITE to thank you for your timely, extensive and illuminating coverage of the forthcoming EU elections on May 22.

The role of the EU in our lives is crucial and should be taken seriously. As a Tunbridge Wells borough councillor, I know three of my MEPs – Richard Ashworth, Nirj Deva and Daniel Hannan – as they have assisted me with residents' issues.

I also concur with many of the sentiments expressed by Dr Alan Bullion (KoS letters, last week) about our need to think of us as part of the European community.

My only proviso is many of the residents I represent in Tunbridge Wells feel aggrieved that the 1975 referendum was for an economic union, not a political union.

Many residents I speak to welcome the chance that David Cameron offers us – a new referendum in 2017. If it is in our national interest to stay, it would be wrong to leave.

I should be grateful for you to highlight in Kent on Sunday the fact that some county boroughs will have local elections on the same day.

This borough event is different from the Brussels vote. It is essential that we know we are voting on two separate issues.

Who represents you in your town hall is a different question as to who represents you in Brussels. Many councillors have years of service to their community behind them and much vital local knowledge.

Cllr Bob Backhouse,
Sherwood Conservative

EU gravy train needs halting

I'M astonished at the lengths politicians will go to in supporting the MEPs' gravy train/retirement club to the detriment of this country and the indigenous population (KoS letters, last week.)

What sort of madness is it that dictates we continue taking in three million immigrants every 10 years into our tiny, overcrowded island when there's plenty of room in other parts of the world?

In Kent alone there's major upset as thousands more houses are built to accommodate the influx – our schools are overcrowded, hospitals struggling, other services overloaded *etc*. Why do the bleeding-hearts care more for immigrants than the people already living here?

We have 2.5 million on the dole. A report says 2.5m young people's talent is being wasted because they're either on the dole, working part-time, or in jobs for which they're over-qualified, while immigrants provide cheap labour for the rich.

It's about time the real truth was spoken about this wasteful, undemocratic and corrupt club and the real issues debated, instead of just throwing mud.

Phil Granger, West Malling

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Article reflects views of village's residents

THANK you for publishing my comments in Sarah Linney's article 'Village under siege' in Kent on Sunday (27.04), which reflects the views of those living in the hamlet of Chilmington Green, other than those that have development interests.

Ashford Borough Council's (ABC) response was to deny that it did not care about local opposition to proposals.

A petition of more 8,000 signatures was delivered to the council objecting to the loss of 1,000 acres of farmland while brownfield sites remain unused.

Later, a referendum was organised within the parish of Great Chart with Singleton asking for the views of parishioners. More than 80 per cent responded objecting to the development. Both the petition and referendum were ignored by ABC. So much for caring about local opposition.

ABC maintains that the principal of development at Chilmington Green was established working with representatives of the local community and other stakeholders.

As a resident for some 20 years, my views have never been asked. I have merely been informed about what would happen. I attended the stakeholders' meetings; the question of why this development was necessary was not on the agenda.

The issues of loss of countryside while brownfield sites remain undeveloped and lack of jobs in the Ashford area to support this development were not addressed. Thank you for an excellent article.

John Durrant,
Chilmington Green

Peaches was just a child of our time

PEACHES Geldof was a child of our time, but first and foremost a child of God. The clock of earthly life can stop at any hour; when it grinds to a halt, the power and the glory become one.

Peaches, bless her heart, is now safe in the everlasting arms. She will know the beauty of that special place that the world cannot give.

Mary McNulty, Brenchley

Right homes in the right places

AS A resident of Shepway District Council, I want our newly-elected councillors to make solving the housing shortage their top priority after May 22.

Many of us are finding it really hard to save enough money to get on the housing ladder, or are struggling with increasing rents while our salaries are staying the same.

I hope that all council candidates will acknowledge this reality and commit to tackling this problem. They need to think about how we can get the right homes, in the right place, at the right price for everybody in Shepway.

I believe we can solve our housing shortage and that's why I'm saying yes to homes in Shepway.

All we need now are the politicians who can make this a reality.

Reg Coles-Watson, Folkestone

Care Bill 2015 will boost social care

MANY people worry about what will happen when they, or their relatives, need support with everyday activities.

Deaf/blind people, for example, use social-care support to get out and about and to communicate with others. Social care is vital.

But the care system is at breaking point. The Care Bill, which will come into force in April, 2015, is a good opportunity to change this.

It recognises the importance of preventing needs increasing, of providing information and advice and making sure that people's needs are properly assessed and met.

Authorities must take every possible step to implement the Care Bill effectively.

Doing so must be a top priority for those standing in the local elections and for the whole of our various councils across the county throughout the coming year.

Annette Callow, Tonbridge

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: ''We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise.'' This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

images of kent



East Kent Plough Championship in Lower Hardres

by **David Harris**

If your picture is printed on this page you will receive an any-duration **Dover-Calais return crossing for a car and up to five passengers, valid for a year**, courtesy of...

MYFERRYLINK
Owned and run by the crew

To see your photograph printed, email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**, or post it to **Archant KOS Media, Images of Kent, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS**. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives. Note: all digital images must be no less than 200dpi.



Visit Sparshatts of Kent before the end of June and get a great deal on stock Vito and Citan.

You could also choose any one of the following:

- 4th year Additional Warranty
- Van Service Care Package worth 3 van services
- Chrome Accessories basket worth £500 (including chrome grille and side bars)

Offer only while stocks last. What are you waiting for? Call us today on 01795 432 960.

Sparshatts of Kent ltd, branches at Ashford, Dartford, Sittingbourne and Tonbridge.

Terms and conditions apply: Vito and Citan only, Excludes National Fleet Customers and is subject to availability, limited to Sparshatts of Kent allocation only. Vehicles must be register before 30th June 2014. No changes or alternations will be made or offered.

mydate24

Try it.. You'll love it!

YOUR local dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR area..**

Here's how to use your mydate24 dating service ...

Place your advert call:
0844 887 2316
and follow the simple instructions

To **Place** your ad by text
Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098**
FREE Standard Network rates apply.

To **Reply** to members from your landline call:
0906 515 7112
calls cost £1.53 per min

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To **Reply** to members from your mobile call **68118**
calls cost £1.50 per minute plus network charges

Or **Text**.. **REPLY2** (leave a space) the six-digit box number (leave a space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY2** 123456 ***hi get in touch...*** then send to **80098** Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Date **ONLINE**
YOU can now date online or via your **mobile**
Simply **VISIT** us at:
www.bbjournal24.mydate24.co.uk

Been left a message?
Pickup your replies on:
0906 515 7114
calls cost £1.53 per min

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet **you**.. **visit**.. www.bbjournal24.mydate24.co.uk

Women Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent. mydate24

TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT2 TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)

CINDY 31 attractive, size 12 brown eyed blonde, new to this but sick of passing up potential soul mate so thought I wld give it a go. ACA **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411873**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 410127**

RITA divorced care worker with no ties, 5ft 1ins, dark hair, enjoys meals out, cosy nights in, seeking male 45-55 with GSOH and similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411775**

JANET 5ft 6ins, slim 12, pretty, green eyes, brown hair, seeking male companion for friendship hopefully leading to a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411689**

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408291**

MELANIE tall curvy attractive bubbly female who loves meals out, cosy nights in with a nice wine, walking, seeks professional male with outgoing GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411509**

LYN 34yrs, pretty petite dark haired female, loves music, meals out, quiet drinks out, seeking caring male with GSOH who can make me feel special again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410137**

64YR old lady, seeking male for friendship, companionship, outings and interesting conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411975**

CAROLINE 39yr old pretty blonde looking for handsome caring man to put the sparkle back into my life and make each other feel special. Call me. **Tel No: 0905 515 7112 Box No: 411891**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019**

33YR old sick of being single working mum, OHAC, likes the simple things in life, looking for romantic, honest guy with GSOH for cosy nights in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411887**

RACHEL 39, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 6ins, bubbly, outgoing, naughty, busty, divorced, seeks male for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410835**

SUE optimistic divorced lady with OHAC, good job, enjoys meals out, cinema, countryside, pub lunches, looking for likeminded outgoing happy male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410467**

CATHY very much a lady seeks gent up to 62yrs who would appreciate an independent professional sassy female who loves to be wined, dined and romanced. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410301**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408297**

CAROLINE blonde curvy very active lady who loves to socialise, countryside, seeking similar caring male for LTR and to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409413**

PLACE YOUR AD BY TEXT
SIMPLY TEXT: REG followed by your FIRST NAME, DATE of BIRTH, AREA and YOUR ADVERT (max 155 characters) and SEND to **80098**
FREE (Standard Network rates apply)

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779**

MARIE 37yrs slim attractive caring, likes meals in/out, cinema, tennis, keeping fit/active, WLTM fun loving, reliable man for friendship leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411037**

WOULD you like to bounce into Spring with me and onwards? Widow late 60's, enjoy most things in life, looking for someone to enjoy them with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411395**

LADY 60, size 12, easy going, likes animals, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411301**

SUE 32 blonde blue eyed curvy nurse, caring, loving romantic, faithful, likes cosy nights in with a nice wine and lovely man, if that's you, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410571**

JANE tall leggy blonde size 12, nice/eyes, likes yoga, swimming, meals in/out, etc. WLTM nice tall male/dad with similar interests to spend time with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410487**

WOULD you like to be my Valentine? Widow 68, seeking Valentine 68-70, likes most things, would like to share them with someone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410695**

BLONDE pretty, long legged, voluptuous, blue eyes, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410585**

LAURA happy size 12-14, attractive, loves shopping, gym, music, clubbing, eating in/out, looking for sincere honest male looking for more than just good fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410713**

KATIE 21yr old very attractive female who is up for most things, looking for daytime fun, no strings and discreet pls. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410573**

JEWISH widow, 67, loves animals, seeks genuine, Jewish gent, 68-73 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410547**

MANDY blonde, blue eyes, voluptuous, honest, likes animals, walks, socialising, seeking older gent, late 70's early 80's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408741**

SOPHIE 27yr old nursing assistant with no ties looking for discreet adult fun times with tall attractive guy 35-42yrs. GSOH essential. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410717**

34YR single mum of 1 who loves nights out having a good time seeks similar sociable fun guy to enjoy relaxed but extremely fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410709**

BUSTY Caribbean lady who loves music, dance and singing, looking for nice older guy for mutual adult no strings fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410305**

RACHAEL 36yr old nurse looking to raise the temperature of reliable sincere male. I have my OACH, a single mum to 1, love gym, cosy meals, animals etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411045**

SUSAN 29 green eyes, dark hair, slim, looking for Mr tall dark and handsome to take me out, enjoy adult times without complications just fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410957**

KAREN blonde blue eyed slim 35yr old interesting female looking for good times, call me if are in a similar situation, board and looking for some fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410719**

JANE pretty size 12, loves going out socialising, countryside, meals out, looking for no strings fun, nothing heavy, give me a call if you are seeking similar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410579**

68YR old widow, seeking 68-70yr old gent, likes meals out, cosy nights in, lets start New Year with new outlook. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409467**

CATHY happy independent female looking for her soul mate, someone to spend quality time but who also likes their own space. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409909**

CLAIRE young 39 slim size 10, pretty, outgoing, seeks similar spontaneous male for nights in/out and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409417**

DAWN 38 dark hair/eyed medium built busty female who loves nights in/out, WLTM fun honest male/single dad with GSOH to help mend my broken heart. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410483**

TERRI 44 green eyed long legged busty blonde, loves to dress up and look feminine, seeking loving, fun, honest professional to fall head over her heals with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410315**

SUE attractive, likes walks, gardening, social drinks, looking for male to settle down with, 60's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410231**

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent. mydate24

TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT2 TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)

DEREK seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433**

MALE 49, attractive, fit, spontaneous, good company, no ties, seeking likeminded lady for the road ahead, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411309**

RAY 63, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired, seeking no strings discreet meets for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411147**

BROWN eyed white mature, handsome male, seeking black female, 18-50 for discreet no strings adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410377**

45YR old male, likes poetry, seeks companion for relationship. Herne Bay area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411993**

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725**

MALE 71, 5ft 10ins, medium build, N/S, likes gardening, dogs, seeks female, 65-71 for friendship/companionship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411587**

MALE 5ft 11ins, good-looking, athletic build, looking for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477**

JAN 38yr old attractive lonely female looking for uncomplicated fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409107**

ANGIE 32 curvy size 16, very attractive, good company and really fun to be with. What are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409255**

LISA busty blonde 34yr old fun to be with single party goer, looking for similar male for adult fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408289**

VANESSA 32yrs single mum, honest, loving, kind hearted, been hurt in the past enjoys music, reading etc, WLTM my very special Mr Right. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409899**

MARIE slim attractive fun brunette, looking for good times with exciting broadminded male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409707**

SUE young at heart female, very adventurous and looking for no strings fun with mature man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409251**

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611**

DEREK 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, loving, caring, seeking black lady for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410511**

EARLY 50's single male, smoker, seeking likeminded female for company and to share life. Must have GSOH, like animals, walks, home made food and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410441**

41YR old male, dark hair, 5ft 11ins, easy going, likes music, guitar, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410411**

WORLD war veteran seeking happy lady with nice conversation in the Kent area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411133**

PAUL own business, looking for daytime fun with lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411127**

DAVE 65, retired, N/S, likes gardening, music, meals out, holidays, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410971**

DAVE 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meets for adult fun. Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410899**

MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755**

PHIL 6ft, clean shaven, blue eyes, smart, likes sports, walks, films, theatre, music, animals, GSOH, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410351**

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thanet area, willing to travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409963**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409961**

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409745**

RETIRED male, fit, active, seeks no strings discreet meet with female, any age and size. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410343**

ADVENTUROUS male, mid 50's, seeks similar lady for fun and mutually enjoyable discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410339**

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191**

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025**

TEXT: CHAT2 TO: 80098 START CHATTING TODAY! txt CHAT
*TEXT: 80098 Cost £1.50/msg received, for full t&cs see below

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Dover. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409533**

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189**

TALL black male, 45, likes meals out, good company, romantic, GSOH, light hearted, seeks easy-going female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409621**



MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941**

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575**

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**



MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855**

STEVE 6ft 4ins, OHAC, seeking relationship, outdoor type, homely, wanting mutual good relationship with sexy woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407835**

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355**

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541**

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421**

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415**

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343**

RETIRED male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317**

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easygoing, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship, Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417**

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407065**

PROFESSIONAL 45yr old male, one son, bored of the same thing, seeks lady for possible romance. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386234**

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147**

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221**

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519**

Follow us on twitter @datelinedirect

CUSTOMER SUPPORT
Call **0844 800 1188** Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

CALL CHARGES*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 090 calls cost £1.53 per min, plus network charges. Calls from Mobiles will be considerably higher. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT*: 88833 texts £1.50 per msg. Mobiles must be MMS/Wap compatible in order to use these services, if not contact your Network Provider. Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/. REPLY BY TEXT*: 80098 costs £1.50 per SMS received(max 150 characters). Service only available where phone icon show. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to chose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 80098. Service provided by Sports4Adults. Help: 0844 800 1188. SMS TEXT CHAT*: 80098 costs £1.50 per SMS received. To STOP text stop to 80098. Service provided by JMedia. Help: 0844 800 1188. ALL SERVICES*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0844 800 1188. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. W/C 11/05/14

business

Kent 2020 Vision all set to attract bumper crowd

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THOUSANDS of visitors are set to flock to the Kent 2020 Vision Live event this week as it returns for an eighth year.

The business-to-business event takes place on Wednesday at the Kent Event Centre in Detling.

Last year saw 3,000 visitors and 300 exhibitors for the single-day event, which has become one of the key B2B events in the region.

There will be keynote speakers, seminars and workshops, plus a host of networking opportunities.

Among the speakers will be Will Whitehorn, former president of Virgin Galactic, a company set up by Richard Branson to provide commercial space flights.

Others include Edward Perry, co-founder and MD of Sittingbourne-based food firm Cook; Paul Carter, leader of Kent County Council; Mark Dance, KCC cabinet member for regeneration and economic development; Dr Dave Francis, of Brighton University; and Katie King, founder and MD of social-media consultancy Zoodikers, based near Tunbridge Wells.



KEYNOTE: KCC leader Paul Carter

There will be specialist areas dedicated to apprenticeships, the county council, tourism and hospitality, business, finance and innovation.

Among the events taking place, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) operating in the low-carbon sector are being invited to attend the launch of the Low Carbon Plus project.

It is offering grants of up to £20,000 to help businesses in Kent and Medway operating in the low-carbon market to expand or grow.

Other organisations that offer low-carbon services and support for SMEs will be showcased and speakers will provide a local and regional context.

Low Carbon Plus is an integrated programme of financial assistance and business support to increase demand for low-carbon technology, increase efficiency and grow businesses in the low-carbon and environmental goods and services (LCEGS) sector in the county.

Low Carbon Kent offers grants of between £1,000 and £20,000 to SMEs.

All grants will be matched 50/50 with the private sector, either by the beneficiaries themselves or through loan or equity investment.

Low Carbon Plus grants aim to unlock private investment in low-carbon enterprises, recognising the additional risks that businesses operating in sectors using new or unproven technology present to investors.

Holiday Extras hits a new high

TRAVEL firm Holiday Extras made a record-breaking number of bookings on Tuesday, surpassing its previous record day of April 1 this year by some 7 per cent.

Matthew Pack, CEO of the Newingreen-based firm, which handles trips and extras, said: "Once again we are seeing strong growth at this time of year, with our customers seeking value alongside an optimum holiday experience."

Basepoint units mark birthday

FOLKESTONE's Basepoint Business Centre marked its 20th anniversary with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque recently.

From one centre in 1994 to 30 today, Basepoint has supported thousands of businesses through its managed office accommodation across the South East.

The Folkestone site has a number of flexible units for various-size industries.

Cautious optimism as labour market shows signs of life

FRESH figures provide additional optimism for the slow but steady economic recovery, with starter salaries at their strongest rate for more than 16 years.

The Report on Jobs takes data from a survey of recruitment and employment consultants across Kent, Sussex and Surrey.

It is designed to provide a guide to labour market trends.

Recruitment consultants in the region reported ongoing rapid growth of candidates placed in permanent jobs at the start of the second quarter.

The rate of expansion picked up slightly from March's four-month low but remained weaker than the trend shown across the UK as a whole.

However, for the 11th month running, permanent staff appointments rose in all four English regions during April.

Temporary staff placements in the region increased at the fastest rate since July 2013 and remained historically strong. Moreover, growth of temp placements continued to outpace the UK average.

Demand for permanent staff in the region rose at the fastest rate for over 16 years in April, reaching its highest point since July 1998. Growth in demand for temp staff also remained substantial, almost matching January's 15-and-a-half year peak.

The availability of permanent candidates in the region's labour market fell for the 10th month in a row in April.

Paul Gresham, senior partner for KPMG in the South East, said: "Whilst starting salaries in the South East have increased at the fastest rate since 1998, the proportion of people putting themselves on the jobs market in the region fell for the 10th consecutive month.

"It is this shortage of skilled labour that is forcing employers to tempt talent with ever-increasing pay, rather than the strength of their brand and the role on offer."

KENT & MEDWAY SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP
driving business - safely!
FSB
Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce
buzzlines travel
In the discovery lane
King's Rochester

Exciting things are happening @
BROMLEY COLLEGE
Find out more
Visit our Open Event
Thursday 22 May, 4.30 - 7.30pm
Bromley Campus
• A Levels
• Accounting
• Art, Design & Media
• Apprenticeships
• Business Studies
• Computing & IT
• Construction
• Counselling
• Degrees
• Engineering
• Financial Services
• GCSEs
• Hair & Beauty
• Health & Social Care
• Hospitality & Catering
• Languages & ESOL
• Legal Studies
• Motor Vehicle
• Public Services
• Retail
• Science
• Secretarial
• Sport
• Teacher Training
• Travel & Tourism

www.bromley.ac.uk | 020 8295 7000
Bromley OF FURTHER & HIGHER EDUCATION COLLEGE

Benecare Fostering
'Providing care without compromise'
Tel: 01732 740088 or visit www.benecarefostering.co.uk

Fostering: a career where 'every child matters'

BENECARE Fostering is a vibrant, well-established independent fostering agency that still feels friendly, welcoming and responsive.

We pride ourselves on our small but experienced qualified team who provide full support to our carers, looked-after children and local authorities.

At Benecare we work with foster carers, children and young people, placing authorities, social workers and birth families to secure the best outcomes for those in need.

Children and young people who are looked after have often experienced difficulties in their life, so we provide experienced carers who are able to meet their needs and provide a secure, stable environment to enable them to reach their full potential and learn life skills that will shape their future.

We also offer varying placements matching the needs of those referred.

We do this by recruiting our carers from all ethnic groups, religions, cultures and backgrounds.

In return, we offer full training, supervision and support to our foster carers combined with attractive fees to enable them to become professionals in their role.

We also offer 'around-the-clock' support, assistance and advice.

Benecare also believes the matching process of placement to the carer is extremely important and through stringent processes we ensure our foster carers only look after children perfectly suited to their skills and areas of expertise.

Whether you are a foster carer or interested in fostering and looking to join a friendly and supportive agency, a local authority looking to place a child or young person, or a young person wanting to find out more about Benecare Fostering, please explore our website or call our offices.

It can be an exceptionally rewarding career becoming a foster carer and we are always looking for people who believe that 'every child matters'.

■ **To find out more about fostering, come and talk to us and learn how you can have a rewarding career at home at Gillingham's Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (outside BHS) between Monday and Saturday, May 19-24, from 10am-4pm.**

Alternatively, phone 01732 740088 or visit www.benecarefostering.co.uk.



PICTURE PERFECT: Benecare Fostering agency firmly believes in matching the right carer with the right children

COULD YOU GIVE A CHILD A HOME?

"EVERY 22 MINUTES A CHILD COMES INTO CARE AND NEEDS A FOSTER HOME"



Supported Fostering Services is a registered Charity, rated **Outstanding** by Ofsted. We are always looking for compassionate, resilient and reliable people who can make a positive difference in a child's life. Would you like to help a child when they need it, by giving them a safe home?

Please visit www.fostering.com or call 01474 365500 to find out more about fostering with SFS or come to our open evening/day.

MAKE A LIFE DIFFERENCE

SFS 26 The Hill, Northfleet, Kent DA11 9EU
14th May 7pm-9pm, Sat 17th May 11am-1pm
22nd May 9am-6pm

Change Lives... Find out about fostering.



Fostering is possibly one of the most rewarding things you will ever do. Making a real difference to children's lives is a unique and immensely satisfying privilege.

However, a chronic shortage of foster carers means that more committed foster carers are needed to help change young lives.

Many people considering a career as a foster carer think that the local council is their only option. Most are completely unaware that independent fostering organisations even exist.

Next Step Fostering was established 25 years ago by Maureen and Alb Ward – who were foster carers themselves – and therefore had personal experience of caring for vulnerable children. Next Step Fostering remains a family company to this day, with Registered Manager Neil McCarthy, and Director Lesley Ward's involvement with the company stretching back over twenty years.

Next Step Fostering has gained an outstanding reputation for providing high quality child care. In the last three consecutive OFSTED inspections, Next Step achieved an 'Outstanding' rating across every standard in which they were assessed –probably the only IFA to achieve this.

Next Step provides a range of fostering services through offices in Kent. London and The Thames Valley and work in partnership with many Local Authorities across the South East of England.

A national shortage of foster carers means that children who cannot live with their family are being moved away from their home communities, resulting in a change of school, community, friends and religious contacts. Every day, Next Step receives child referrals from Local Authorities, but due to the high levels of demand, do not have sufficient families to meet the needs of the many children being referred.

As a family run company, Next Step Fostering is able to offer a personal, individual service to its foster carers and children. Supervision, support and training can be tailored to individual needs and foster carers have an open invitation to approach Lesley Ward directly to discuss any issues they may have.



Fostering a child is not an easy task, but it is extremely rewarding – and thanks to the generous allowance Next Step Fostering pays, many people give up unfulfilling jobs to undertake a career in fostering, where they feel they can really make a difference to young lives.

Mary Cattell, an ex-carer herself and now Manager of the Chatham office, said "People often worry that they won't be suitable, based on things they have heard from friends or the media, but I would encourage anyone thinking about fostering to speak to us directly.

We can answer all of their questions about the type of people we are looking for and what fostering is like."

If you are considering a career in fostering or simply want to learn more, call into Next Step Fostering's Chatham office, at 85 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4EE.

Alternatively you can call the Chatham office on either 01634 838666 or 0845 6038354, or visit their web site at www.nextstepfostering.org

Change your career, change a life.
Call 01634 838666 or visit www.nextstepfostering.org

next step fostering

Foster Care Fortnight

MAY 12-25

Benecare Fostering
'Providing care without compromise'
Tel: 01732 740088 or visit www.benecarefostering.co.uk

FOSTER Care Fortnight is the Fostering Network's annual campaign to raise the profile of fostering and is the UK's biggest foster-carer recruitment campaign.

The fortnight runs from Monday to Sunday, May 12-25.

So what does it take? What does a foster carer look like?

Underneath the calm exterior, they may well have incredible communication, support and advocacy skills but, thankfully, more often than not they're everyday Clark Kents or Diana of Themysciras with their underwear on the inside as opposed to displaying a superhero fashion sense.

And what does it take to be a foster carer? What skills and qualities are fostering services looking for in those who enquire so they can be assessed, trained and supported to foster some of the most vulnerable children in their area?

This year's theme for Foster Care Fortnight helps answer these questions and more by inviting members of the public to guess who fosters.

By turning the spotlight on current foster carers, fostering services can showcase and celebrate their expertise and help attract new people like them to come forward and enquire about being a foster carer to help reduce the shortage of some 8,600 foster carers across the UK.

■ Visit www.fostering.net/foster-care-fortnight for more details.

Superheroes wanted to make a real difference



Transforming young lives this company's greatest objective

CHRYSALIS Care is an independent fostering provider that aims to transform the lives of children and young people through the quality of care they receive within a loving home, with highly-trained, well-supported foster families who are truly committed to their well-being.

Children come into the care system for all sorts of reasons, needs and experiences, so our foster carers come from a range of cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds, mixed-age groups and both single people and couples.

As an Ofsted-rated 'outstanding' organisation, we know that without our foster carers we could not fulfil our ethos of transforming the lives of children and young people.

Foster carers do not fit a particular profile, so you may find it hard to guess who fosters… it could be you!

If you want to know more about becoming a fully-trained foster carer and have a spare room and also room in your life to offer a child or young person, we are waiting to hear from you and to answer your queries.

Please call 0208 2982800, email info@chrysaliscare.org or visit chrysaliscarefostering.org.

COULD YOU FOSTER?

chrysaliscare
transforming lives



Chrysalis Care, an OUTSTANDING fostering provider, is seeking those interested in becoming a foster carer, and joining our outstanding agency in providing first class care for children and young people.

You don't have to be married, you don't need to be employed, you don't need a big house, just a spare room and space in your life to help a vulnerable child to achieve.

As a Chrysalis Care foster carer you will receive:
- 24 hour professional support
- Excellent remuneration
- Comprehensive training
- Access to a range of children's services



We are also looking for those interested in providing a home to a **parent and child, teenagers, children with disabilities** and carers interested in **remand fostering.**

Ofsted Outstanding 2013-2012

For more information and application:
Tel: 020 8298 2800 Email: info@chrysaliscare.org
Web: www.chrysaliscarefostering.org



Benecare Fostering
'Providing care without Comprimise'

We are looking for
Foster Carers
in your area

- Would you like to earn £395 per week, increased with experience
- Do you have a spare room
- 24/7 support
- Supportive training programme
- Take the chance to make a real difference

To learn more about Fostering contact us by phone:

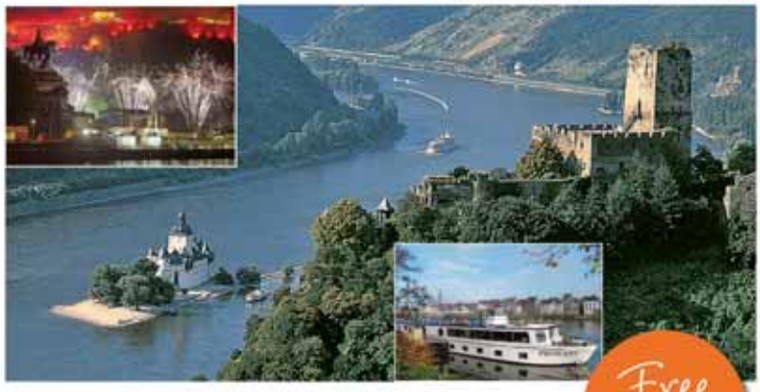
01732 740088

www.benecarefostering.co.uk

READER OFFER Holidays

Call 01895 83 33 33
for bookings and information

Holidays offered by GN Voyages, Higher Denham, Uxbridge UB9 5EL; ABTA No Y0291 - ATOL 9362 • Email: info@gnvoyages.co.uk • www.gnvoyages.co.uk
Open 9am to 5.30pm weekdays, 9.30am to 12.30pm Saturdays; closed Bank Holiday weekends.



RHINE IN FLAMES RIVER CRUISE

Free Drinks

Escorted Rail or Fly Cruise
5 days, semi-all-inclusive, from £649pp
Departs 2 October, 2014

PRIVATE CHARTER
QUOTE: RH10-KOS

This fun-packed Rhine cruise passes romantic hilltop castles and picturesque vineyards and visits historic riverside towns including Andernach, Rudesheim, Koblenz and Boppard where we see the Rhine in Flames festival. Originally held to celebrate the grape harvest, this spectacular pyrotechnics show features an illuminated flotilla of riverboats and curtains of fire bathing the riverbanks and landmarks in a magical glow. We have chartered the mps Princess exclusively for our guests so you're assured a warm and friendly stay on board.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout - Rail travel from London St Pancras to Cologne (from Ebbsfleet on request) or flights with luggage from Gatwick - supplement may apply - 4 nights full-board cruise on the mps Princess sharing a twin bed outside cabin - upgrades available - Beer, wine & choice of 2 Dutch spirits served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar - Morning and afternoon coffee/tea & cakes - Late night snacks - Captain's dinner - Entertainment - Transfers abroad



ITALIAN LAKES -COMO GARDA & MAGGIORE

Free Drinks

Escorted Holiday by rail
9 days, semi-all-inclusive, from £1129pp
Departs 23 June, 2014

CHAMPAGNE CHECK-IN
QUOTE: LC6-KOS

Come with us to the Italian Lakes where the mountains roll down to the water's edge. Your holiday starts with a glass of bubbly at St Pancras Champagne Bar, London. Our journey to Italy combines the swift Eurostar, London to Paris, then overnight sleeper train to Verona, in a private 2-berth cabin. With an early afternoon departure from London and just 1 train change, we'll be in Lake Garda the next morning, ready to enjoy the best of the Italian Lakes.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout - Return Eurostar to Paris and Thello rail travel to Verona, returning from Milan in a 2-berth overnight sleeper cabin - 6 nights in a deluxe room at the 3 Star Britannia Excelsior Hotel on an all-inclusive basis - includes breakfast, lunch (or packed lunch) and dinner - Free house wine, beers, spirits, tea/coffee from 10.00 until 23.45 daily - Excursions - All transfers abroad



RIVIERA OF FLOWERS MONACO & PORTOFINO

Free Drinks

Escorted Holiday by rail - afternoon departures
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, from £799pp
Departs 6 June, 15 & 21 Sept, 2 Oct, 2014

CHAMPAGNE CHECK-IN
QUOTE: FR-KOS

This super holiday taking in the French and Italian Rivieras, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras before taking an afternoon Eurostar to Lille or Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice then to Italy's Riviera of Flowers. Enjoy free drinks every night at the hotel and excursions to Monaco, Eze, Portofino and Dolceacqua.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout - Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras & return rail travel (from Ebbsfleet on request) - 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille - 6 nights in Diano Marina - half board and free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night - Excursions - Transfers abroad



GREAT HIGHLAND RAILWAYS & THE ISLE OF SKYE

As seen on Michael Palin's Great Railway Journeys TV Series

Escorted Holiday by rail
6 days, half board, £649pp
Departs 18 June & 27 August, 2014

QUOTE: SC6/8-KOS

The Inverness to the Kyle of Lochalsh line - as featured in Michael Palin's original Great Railway Journeys TV series - has spectacular views, passing Loch Carron, the Cullin Hills and the Isle of Skye – enjoy a return trip on the train and a visit to Skye. We also include a ride on the Strathspey Steam Railway; a visit to Loch Ness, with the option of a loch cruise; and a Highlands coach tour with a whisky distillery visit.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout from London - Return rail travel from London to Aviemore (also options to join at York, Newcastle and the hotel) - 5 nights at a 3-star hotel in the Highlands with 5 dinners and 5 breakfasts - Rail excursion to Kyle of Lochalsch - Visit to the Isle of Skye - Trip on the Strathspey railway - All transfers & touring in Scotland



TAKE THREE: Toyota, Peugeot and Citroën are again aiming at the city-car market, offering drivers a fun, practical and cheap motoring package

Car wars: attack of the clones





After assaulting the city-car market in 2005, Toyota and Co are back – and this time they're aiming to blow the roof off this highly-competitive sector

THREE'S a crowd can work – as Toyota, Peugeot and Citroën proved with their jointly-produced Aygo, 107 and C1 city-car cloning exercise in 2005.

Nine years is a pretty good innings, in which they proved that small cars can be fun as well as cheap to run and practical.

But time marches ever faster in the motor business and this trio have been off the pace for a while now, especially since the VW group brought its own trio of little clones to the market in 2012 – the VW Up, SEAT Mii and Skoda Citigo.

So Toyota and Co are responding over the next couple of months with their second stab at city-car 'crowd funding' – an all-new clone trio.

While sharing much to keep costs down – margins are tight in small cars, hence the need to pool resources – there will be more cosmetic differences this time.

And the Peugeot will be called 108, in line with the French marque's new practice of ending all model numbers with an eight.

It looks to be the prettiest and most conventional-looking of the three, and Peugeot will hope it also looks the most classy, matching the brand's upmarket aspirations – features will include a smart seven-inch touchscreen to echo those found in other recent Peugeots.

As you might expect, sister brand Citroën's C1 is broadly similar in profile to the 108 but has a funkier and more youthful look, largely due to a slightly bug-eyed front end.

But the joker in the pack is the Aygo. Toyota, which made itself world No1 car-maker by designing cars that attract few admiring glances but offend nobody, has created a real head-turner.

In fact, with a X-shaped contrasting inset in the front end, it looks almost Renault-esque and should deliver an edge in customer personalisation, even if senior Toyota management maybe had to take a lie-down after being so bold as to sign it off.

But there's more: this trio of cars will also be sold with a roll-top convertible-roof option that should sell them like hotcakes to young buyers, who will see this as a huge style bonus to weigh against the cars' hard-headed appeal on insurance and running costs, including road-tax-exempt low CO_2 emissions and possible real-world averages of about 60mpg.

With start prices from just £8,245 for the French variants – Toyota has yet to confirm its listings – and open-top versions expected to add just £850 to that, they will undercut a roll-top market that Fiat's 500C and Citroën's DS3 Cabrio have already mined extensively.

Several colour choices for the canvas roofs will also allow a mix'n'match option against the main body colour, which should boost customisation in the style of the MINI and Fiat 500.

There won't be much to excite on the power front, though: the same 1.0-litre three-cylinder petrol engine as before has been tweaked to 68bhp and retained. However, the French duo will be offered with an 82bhp 1.2 unit, which should give more zip for those who want it, at a premium of £350.

It will also further gee up a city-car sector that is starting to really get interesting.

Other **view...**

the Petrolhead
Oh no, not more city cars, with their tiddly engines and frilly customisation – more signs that the days of interesting motoring are fast waning

She says
With their cut-price open-tops, these have to be good news for those who want to downsize but keep some fun in their motoring lives

the Eco-warrior
Yet more proof you can reduce your ecological footprint with a car that's fun as well as practical – who can really argue here?

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Preview

Toyota Aygo/ Citroën C1/Peugeot 108

Price:	£20,995
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	VW Up

» Read more of Steve's motoring reviews in... KENT LIFE

» For more cars visit drive24.co.uk
Powered by MOTORS
Search Smart. Buy Right .co.uk

www.citroen.co.uk

CITROËN C1 EDITION

FROM
£129
A MONTH°

WITH ONE YEAR'S FREE INSURANCE†



14" 'RIFT' ALLOY WHEELS
DAYTIME-RUNNING LEDS
AIR CONDITIONING



CITROËN C3

FROM
£159 A MONTH°

CITROËN C3 PICASSO

FROM
£199 A MONTH°

NEW CITROËN C4 PICASSO

FROM
£199 A MONTH°

CITROËN prefers TOTAL

WILMOTHS ASHFORD 01233 640100
QUANTOCK DRIVE, MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD, KENT, TN24 8TU www.wilmoths.co.uk
WILMOTHS FOLKESTONE 01303 245588
FOORD ROAD, FOLKESTONE, KENT, CT19 5AE www.wilmoths.co.uk
WILMOTHS MAIDSTONE 01622 750442
SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8RD www.wilmoths.co.uk

CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE

CITROËN

Elect 4 Personal Lease rentals for models shown, where rentals differ, apply to Citroën C3 VTi 82 manual Selection, Citroën C3 Picasso VTi 95 manual Selection & New Citroën C4 Picasso e-HDi 115 Airdream 6-speed manual Exclusive+ respectively & require advance rentals of £3436.43, £3947.67 & £6051.36, followed by 46 monthly rentals of £159, £169, £299 & optional final rentals of £3728, £4748 & £7827. °Prices & offers apply to retail sales of qualifying Citroën models ordered & delivered 01/04-31/05/14 & include VAT, delivery to dealer & number plates, Government Registration Fee & 12 months' graduated vehicle excise duty. Black/metallic/pearlescent paint optional at extra cost. Elect 4 Personal Lease rentals shown apply to the following models respectively: Citroën C1 1.0i 68 manual 3-door Edition,Citroën C3 VTi 68 manual VTR+,Citroën C3 Picasso HDi 90 manual VTR+ & New Citroën C4 Picasso HDi 90 manual VTR & require an advance rental of £1575,£2057,£2812 & £2669 followed by 46 monthly rentals & an optional final rental of £3251,£3773,£4633 & £7304. Excess mileage charges may apply if the agreed annual mileage is exceeded. Payment of the optional final rental extends the rental term (this does not transfer title of the vehicle) & requires an annual rental equivalent to one months' rental. Finance subject to status. Written quotations available on request from Citroën Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1QA, UK. Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. †Free insurance is only available on Elect 4 Personal Finance Lease & Elect 3 if car ownership is required. Ask your dealer for details. Free insurance available on Citroën C1 3-door & 5-door Edition in UK mainland & only Citroën C1 5-door Edition in Northern Ireland. Policyholder must be aged 21-75 (25-75 in Northern Ireland), with a minimum of two years NCD to use on the vehicle. All drivers must have held a full UK licence for a minimum of two years & meet eligibility criteria, including limits on driving convictions & claims. Excesses apply. One year's Citroën Motor Insurance will be provided & underwritten by U K Insurance Limited. Offers, prices & specification correct at time of going to press from participating Dealers. Terms & conditions apply. Please ask us for details. Subject to stock availability. Finance offers apply to UK only.

Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO_2 emissions (g/km); Highest:Citroën C3 VTi 120 automatic Exclusive 9.3/30.4, 4.9/57.6, 6.5/43.5, 150. Lowest:Citroën C3 e-HDi 70 Airdream EGS VTR+ 3.6/78.5, 3.2/88.3, 3.4/83.1, 87. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.







WELL ARRANGED: Controls are comfortably to hand on the Honda CR-V, which also boasts a huge boot and ample real-world space for five passengers

Honda saves best until last with diesel surprise

The 1.6-litre diesel making Honda's Civic hatchback more competitive has also been a revelation in the CR-V, says **Steve Loader**

HONDA CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC SR 2WD

Price:	£26,880
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£105
Best rival:	Mazda CX-5

Kent dealers

Barretts Canterbury
01227 828200

Invicta Motors
Maidstone 0844 3751678
Tunbridge Wells
0844 3751679

HONDA'S 2.2 diesel engine is already regarded as something of a classic.

Dubbed 'the whispering diesel' when it arrived, it also saved Honda's bacon in Britain and Europe, where the Japanese marque simply had nothing to offer during the drive towards diesel power.

As time went on, though, even this stalwart was caught out by a move to powerful, smaller-capacity diesels, so Honda recently added an excellent 1.6, ideal for its Civic family-hatch range.

No surprise there, but this light yet frugal engine has now been offered in the brand's considerably larger CR-V SUV launched in 2012 and built in the UK at Swindon. A step too far? Think again.

Improbable though it seems, this is the best powertrain option of all for the latest CR-V, if you are happy to forego 4x4 – restricted to the remaining 2.0-litre petrol and 2.2-litre diesel power options.

For the 119bhp 1.6 diesel is available only in front-wheel-drive format, but, while it concedes some 30bhp to the bigger 2.2 engine, it doesn't have to bear the weight of a 4x4 system, is considerably lighter itself and your wallet won't suffer the two grand extra drain of buying an equivalent 2.2 model.

Combined with the fourth-generation CR-V's aerodynamic styling and lighter yet stronger construction and you get punchy performance for this type of car (0-62mph in 11.2 seconds) and incredible fuel economy.

The official combined figure is 60.1mpg and, while we know such figures cannot reflect real-world use, the test car averaged about 52mpg on a 300-mile motorway run with lots of city-centre stops and starts at either end. Impressive, and likely to make you appreciate the temptations of the CR-V even more.

The test car was a 1.6 in mid-range SR trim (£26,880), bringing some welcome luxuries such as smart 18-inch alloys, rear privacy glass, premium sound system with digital radio, heated front seats, leather/Alcantara upholstery and roof rails, though these drive road tax up from £30 a year to £105.

The cabin itself is not particularly showy, but there is longevity and sense about the materials and layout, with an excellent driving position and good views out.

Space is excellent front and back, with a nice flat floor for those ranged across the back seat – this is a proper five-seater.

The boot is a generous 589 litres with the load cover in place – topping any rival – and, even better, can be quickly converted to 'van mode' by simply pulling a lever on each side of the 60:40-split rear seating.

This action takes care of tucking the head rests in, too, to leave a nice flat load floor and offer a massive 1,648 litres of cargo space – Honda is fond of showing two mountain bikes stood up in the rear of the car, ready to be pulled out and ridden.

Behind the wheel you soon realise that Honda has moved to improve the lacklustre driving appeal of the previous car.

The new CR-V range generally balances handling and comfort far better, but chassis tweaks to the front-wheel-drive-only 1.6 versions mean that these are even more nimble without heeling into the bends.

Ride quality is far better damped and only occasionally gets crashy, while overall refinement is excellent – as my motorway run testified.

Economy is aided by a prominent 'Econ' button on the dashboard that engages stop/start and an economy gearshift indicator, but there is also an obvious hand on the economy tiller – green shading to the dashboard display that turns blue if you get too heavy-footed.



FirstGEAR
Motoring news



Customised Juke

NISSAN has revamped its British-built Juke compact crossover.

The pugnacious looks remain, but scope for MINI-style-owner customisation has been widened, new Nissan Safety Shield technology added and luggage capacity increased by 40 per cent.

Priced from £13,420, Nissan also hopes it will continue to boost its successful Sunderland production plant and help reinforce the brand's dominance of the crossover market, alongside the all-new Qashqai and soon-to-be-launched X-Trail.



Civic temptation

HONDA has put pressure on the family/company-hatch sector by revising its already-competitive UK-built Civic model for 2014 and backing it with compelling ownership deals.

The Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S petrol is offered at £209 per month, and the frugal Civic 1.6 i-DTEC S for £239, with the finance deal including Honda's 'FIVE' care package, worth £1,345, featuring five years' servicing, warranty and roadside cover.



Punto Jet Black 2

ALWAYS under-rated and now enjoying something of a last hurrah, the Fiat Punto supermini is being offered in a stunning fully-loaded limited edition for just £12,000 or from £99 a month.

The three-door Punto Jet Black 2 features black metallic paint, 17-inch alloys and sports suspension, plus climate control, cruise control, parking sensors and Fiat's Blue&Me connectivity. It also comes with a lively 77bhp 1.4-litre petrol engine.

Bank Beating 0% APR Representative on our entire Vauxhall Stock

Right now at the Barnes Autostore we're offering **0% APR** representative finance on our Vauxhall Used Car Stock.

We have over **250 cars** onsite 150 Vauxhalls and over 100 multi-franchise





13 13 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 SE

Now £10,795

0% APR available

13 13 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr

Representative Example:

60 Monthly Payments	Deposit	Cash Price	Amount of Credit	Total Amount Payable	Representative
£146.58	Nil	£8,759	£8,759	£8,795	0%APR

13 13 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SE



Now £8,595

13 63 Vauxhall Astra GTC 2.0 CDTi Sport



Now £15,995

13 13 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 3dr



Now £8,495

BARNES AUTO STORE

Sutton Road, Parkwood Estate, Maidstone ME15 9YF

Tel: 08442 475 291

barnesautostore.co.uk

Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Please ask for further details. Vehicles are shown for illustration purposes only.

TO ADVERTISE:

TELEPHONE: **0845 671 4460** EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk** ONLINE: **www.jobs24.co.uk/kent**

Sixth Form Teaching Vacancies for September 2014

A level Chemistry Teacher
A level Mathematics Teacher

Competitive Salaries

Students and parents choose Rochester Independent College because of our reputation for exceptional teaching and top A level results, particularly in Maths and the Sciences. Our growing sixth form is seeking two well-qualified subject specialists to join established and high achieving departments. Our teachers work with motivated students in small tutorial style groups. The College atmosphere is informal but academically focussed.

See website for further information and a downloadable application form

STAR HILL ROCHESTER ME1 1XF **www.rochester-college.org**

ROCHESTER INDEPENDENT COLLEGE
A Co-educational Day & Boarding School

Thamesview SCHOOL

COVER SUPERVISOR

30 hours per week for 39 weeks per year
Kent Salary Range 7
£20,878.00 – £23,752.00 per annum - Pro rata to £14,285.00 - £16,251.00

We are seeking to appoint a passionate member of support staff who will join a team of Cover Supervisors to provide cover supervision for absent teaching staff, involving the facilitation of learning by KS3 and KS4 students in a safe and secure learning environment.

To undertake other non-teaching duties as directed during non-cover lessons including the provision of administrative support for specified projects and provide LSA support for SEN students within lessons.

The ideal applicant…

- will relate well to students
- must have good attendance and punctuality record
- will be able to liaise and communicate effectively with staff and students
- must be confident to lead classes of up to 30 students.
- needs to be proactive to engage with students, using materials left for classes.
- will develop their own resources to supplement teacher resources.
- will be familiar with the use of interactive whiteboards (or prepared to be trained).

The School received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category with some outstanding features.

Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 8081120 or email m.thomson@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 12th May 2014, 9.00am
Interviews: Week Commencing 19th May 2014

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

BRITELITE WINDOWS

Require **DIRECT SALES** professionals.

Why sell ordinary double glazing when you could be selling TRIPLE GLAZING for the same price! Loads of appointments waiting just for you! Top commissions with fast payout!

Call JOHN BAXTER on 01622 350971 for an initial chat! (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College are currently looking for people to join our busy Creative & Visual Arts department at our Medway Campus.
We currently have vacancies within the following area:

Mechanical Engineering Lecturer
Ref : P0130

Salary: £28,135 depending on qualifications and experience

Location: Medway Campus

Closing: 13/05/2014

An exciting opportunity has emerged at the Medway Campus of MidKent College and we are looking for two enthusiastic and innovative Mechanical Engineers that includes one full time and one part time posts. The ideal candidates must have experience of working within the FE sector and aim to inspire high achieving learners from Levels 1 to Level 4 (HNC) engineering programmes.

Applicants must have current industrial skills and knowledge, and be an effective team player who can respond with a flexible approach to the demands of the curriculum.

The post requires a minimum of Level 3 qualification or equivalent within the engineering sector and a teaching qualification, or have a willingness to undertake to the required national standard. It would be desirable to have an Assessors Award, but not essential

To apply for this position please contact job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack. The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a DBS check.

MidKent College

Ceramic Tiler
(specialists only) required

Contracts in
Kent, London, Sussex, Surrey, Essex

Telephone Brian at
Delphi Ceramics on 01634 666170

TEACHERS

• PRIMARY • SECONDARY • NEWLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS •

Local work available NOW
Daily Supply - Long Term - Permanent
Excellent Daily Rate
For an immediate interview call
CLASSIC EDUCATION
Now on **01474 359333**
or email us on office@classiceducation.co.uk
AGY

TEMPORARY DISTRIBUTORS

Required to deliver the THOMSON LOCAL in **MAIDSTONE, CHATHAM, ROCHESTER, SITTINGBOURNE, SHEERNESS, FAVERSHAM, LENHAM, STAPLEHURST** and surrounding areas.

Good rates of pay and flexible working hours.
You will need a car to transport your directories

CALL 01252 390990
www.bookaroute.com
Text MEDN to 07786 208008

Your Leisure provides a range of leisure, fitness, hospitality and entertainment services and we want our people to share in our success. We are now seeking a highly motivated individual to join our team who have the passion, drive and desire to deliver exceptional service.

Cook
Ramsgate Leisure Centre
30 hours per week, including regular evening and weekend work. £7.05 per hour. The successful candidate will need to hold a Basic Food Hygiene qualification and will have some basic catering experience as a griddle cook in a similar role/establishment.

YOUR leisure

Swim Teacher
Level 2
Hartsdown & Ramsgate
Required predominantly for after school and weekends. £12 per hour.



Apprentices
£100 per week
We currently seek applications for the following apprenticeships: Business Administration, Winter Gardens Reception, Ramsgate Leisure Centre

Maintenance Operations, Foreshores

Closing date for all posts: **Friday 16th May**

Interested?

Please contact Head Office on 01843 868302 for an application form or email recruitment@yourleisure.uk.com

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Kent on Sunday
jobs24.co.uk
IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

TO ADVERTISE:
TELEPHONE: **0845 671 4460**
EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk** ONLINE: **www.jobs24.co.uk/kent**

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

Telephone: 01303 817056 Fax: 01303 817001
Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk Online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

Be part of our successful team



Field Sales Account Manager
Plus bonus potential

Media Sales Office based Executive
Plus bonus potential

Here at Archant Kent we are looking for a Home based Field Sales Account Manager and an Office based Media Sales Executive in Ashford to support and increase business in our publications and online as we continue to grow.

We want ambitious people to join our successful sales teams and are looking for IT-literate individuals who are task focused with a good eye for detail, and a strong proven sales background. You must be able tocommunicate well both verbally and in writing.

If you think you have the talent we require, and you are ambitious, target driven and want to be part of our growth plans then we want to hear from you immediately.

To find out more:
www.archant.co.uk/vacancies

or email: **employment@archant.co.uk**

ARCHANT Inspiring Communities · Kent on Sunday · KENT LIFE

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENDED LAND DISPOSAL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
SECTION 123 (2A)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in an area of land, which is for identification purposes described in the schedule to this notice.

This notice is given in so far as the area of land consists of or forms part of an open space with the meaning of the above Section.

A plan of the land is available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook TN17 3HF.

Objections to the proposed disposals must be made in writing to the Legal Services Manager, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS by no later than 16th May 2014.

SCHEDULE

Land on the south side of Ringden Avenue, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent (approximately 0.03 hectares)

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager

Dated 24th April 2014



PLANNING

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/1261/SH# - The Star Inn 16 Station Road Lydd Romney Marsh Kent - Listed building consent for works in connection with conversion to two semi detached dwellings.

Y14/0211/SH - The Barnfield Brabourne Lane Stowting Common Ashford Kent - Erection of a replacement dwelling and detached double garage

Y14/0553/SH† - The Barn Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Alteration/extension to rear dormer.

Y14/0556/SH† - Port Lympne Aldington Road Lympne Kent CT21 4PD - Erection of a replacement education centre building (alternative to planning permission Y13/1120/SH).

Y13/1282/SH - Park Lodge Barrack Hill Hythe Kent CT21 4BZ - Extension and conversion of garage to residential dwelling.

Y14/0316/SH - 1 Silver Hill Villas High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising the reduction in height to approximately 3 metres of a Hazel (T1) and a Conifer (T2) and the reduction in height to approximately 3 metres and the removal of four limbs on the eastern side of a Hazel (T3).

Y14/0066/SH* - Plot 4 North East Cross Keys Coaches Caesars Way Folkestone Kent - Retrospective application for the continued use of the land as an over night lorry park.

Y14/0549/SH - Spade House Radnor Cliff Crescent Folkestone Kent CT20 2JQ - Felling of a Holm Oak (T4) subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 6 of 2000 and various pruning works to a Holm Oak (T1) and two Beech (T2 and T3), subject of Tree Preservation Order No 1 of 1985

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council



Looking for staff?
Make sure your recruitment advertisement is on
jobs24.co.uk
ONLINE . IN-PAPER . ON MOBILE
Contact the teams today
01303 817056
appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE Call 01303 817056 www.kentnews.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/14/00320 Erection of 4no. dwellings on site of former builder's yard including demolition of existing buildings and part re-use of existing materials
Gregory's Yard, r/o, 67 High Street, Wingham, CT3 1AA **SLC**

DOV/14/00364 Erection of a single storey rear extension and associated internal and external alterations (part of existing extension and boundary wall to be demolished)
36 High Street, Wingham, CT3 1AB **LCN**

DOV/14/00240 Redevelopment of site to provide a total of 100 residential units comprising: two storey terrace, semi-detached and detached new build dwellings; Conversion of Tewkesbury House to provide two residential units; Partial demolition, alteration and conversion of the 'Old Workhouse'; to provide ten residential units; Demolition of the fire damaged Range building and erection of a two-store terrace of eleven residential units'; Together with change of use and conversion of existing Chapel to B1a (Office); car parking, landscaping, public open space and alteration to existing access
Eastry Hospital, Mill Lane, Eastry, CT13 0JU **ALL**

DOV/14/00259 Repairs to roof of outbuilding and installation of 4 rooflights
Curfew House, 28 St Peters Street, Sandwich, CT13 9BW **LCN**

DOV/14/00385 Erection of single storey and first floor rear extensions (existing extension to be demolished)
3A Silver Street, Deal, CT14 6LB **SLC**

DOV/14/00403 Change of use to restaurant/drinking establishment (Mixed Use Class A3 & A4)
10-12, New Street, Sandwich, CT13 9AB **CON**

DOV/14/00407 Erection of 98 linear metres of razor wire 0.45m high to top of existing perimeter fence, pedestrian and vehicular gates
Former Richborough Power Station, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, CT13 9NL **MAJ**

DOV/14/00420 Change of use and conversion into 2no. dwellings and 1no. self-contained flat,retention of retail unit at ground floor and associated internal and external alterations
12 & 12A Delf Street, Sandwich, CT13 9BZ **LCN**

DOV/14/00425 Erection of a single storey rear extension
High Gables, St Andrews Way, Tilmanstone, CT14 0JH **SLC**

DOV/14/00434 Installation of replacement windows to bay
West End House, Coldred Road, Eythorne, Dover, CT15 4BE **LCN**

DOV/14/00363 Erection of a single storey rear extension (part of existing extension and boundary wall to be demolished)
36 High Street, Wingham, CT3 1AB **RSLC**

DOV/14/00381 Erection of a rear conservatory extension (existing conservatory to be demolished)
32 Millwall Place, Sandwich, CT13 9BQ **LCF**

DOV/14/00258 Repairs to roof of outbuilding and installation of 4 rooflights
Curfew House, 28 St Peters Street, Sandwich, CT13 9BW **LCN**

DOV/14/00291 Installation of 3 replacement windows and rendering/repainting of exterior
1 Silver Street, Deal, CT14 6LB **SLC**

DOV/14/00397 Extension to existing outbuilding (partial demolition of existing outbuilding)
The Manor, Hull Place, Sholden, Deal, CT14 0AQ **SLB**

DOV/14/00406 Variation of Conditions 2 and 3 of planning permission DOV/13/00688 to allow changes to footprint and sale of refrigerated food from unit A (application under Section 73)
Land Off Honeywood Parkway, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, CT16 3PT **MD**

DOV/14/00416 Erection of a three storey front extension, two storey rear extension with balcony and erection of a detached summerhouse
27 Crabble Lane, River, CT17 0LS **ARW**

DOV/14/00421 Change of use and conversion into 2no. dwellings and 1no. self-contained flat, retention of retail unit at ground floor and associated internal and external alterations
12 & 12A Delf Street, Sandwich, CT13 9BZ **LCN**

DOV/14/00428 Erection of a first and second floor rear extension to facilitate the change of use into a self-contained flat
10 High Street, Dover, CT16 1DR **CON**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
CON – Within Conservation Area **LCN** – Listed Building in a Conservation Area
MAJ – Major Development **ARW** – Affects a Public Right of Way
SLB - To affect the setting of a Listed Building
SLC – To affect setting of a Listed Building & Conservation Area
LCF – Affects a Listed Building, Conservation Area and Public Footpath
SLC – To affect setting of a Listed Building & Conservation Area
ALL – The development affects a Listed Building, a Conservation Area, a public right of way, is a Major Development and a departure from the Development Plan.
RSLC – Affects the setting of a Listed Building, a Conservation area and a public right of way
MD – Proposal is a major development and a departure from the Development Plan

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

-14/01330/FULL **Land Adjacent Portobello High Street, Brenchley**
- Detached dwelling with garaging; Utilisation of existing access in south east corner and provision of entrance drive; Associated hard and soft landscaping (LB)(CA)

14/01107/FULL **Site Of 1-36 Ropers Gate And 26-60 Summervale Road, Broadwater**
- Variation of condition - Demolition of 50 existing flats and 4 No. shops; Construction of 62 dwellings comprising houses and flats with new retail unit/post office, road network, parking and landscape (11/03812 refers) - condition 30 - amended to The 10 flats on the first and second floor of block A shall be occupied by persons of 55 years of age or older only (MAJOR)

14/01247/FULL **Heathervale House 2 - 4 Vale Avenue, Culverden**
- Construction of roof extension to provide 9 no. apartments, with new entrance extension to front elevation (CA)

14/01306/FULMC **La Fiamma 42 Mount Ephraim, Culverden**
- Part change of use from restaurant (Class A3 use) to restaurant and take-away (mixed Class A3/A5 use) (CA)(LB)

14/01093/HOUSE **Monks Summerhill, Goudhurst**
- Demolition of front porch to main house and construction of new glazed link between main house and annexe; Conversion of ground floor of annexe to habitable accommodation; Flat roof extension to annexe; Installation of weatherboard cladding to annex (LB)

14/01096/LBC **Grove Place North Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed building consent - extension to dwelling, removal of tanks (completed under existing permission). Shed (built under existing permission) and new greenhouse. Amendment/new opening into new from existing. This application seeks permission for minor adjustments to the design already approved (LB)

14/01103/HOUSE **Grove Place North Road, Goudhurst**
- Minor material amendment - extension to dwelling, removal of tanks (completed under existing permission). Shed (built under existing permission) and new greenhouse. Amendment/new opening into new from existing. This application seeks permission for minor adjustments to the design already approved (10/03982 refers) (LB)

14/01223/LBC **All Saints Church Rye Road, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of existing church to residential use comprising seven units:- a tower house, 4 maisonettes and 2 flats with associated parking (LB)

14/01228/FULL **Rosemary Shragers Cookery School Frant House, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use of part of second floor from residential 2-bed apartment (Class C3) to a combination of demonstration kitchen (Class D1), office use (Class B1a) and staffroom use (Class D1) to support the Cookery School (Class D1) (LB)(CA)

14/01239/FULL **Freeman Forman 22 - 24 High Street, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Installation of two air conditioning units at rear (CA)(LB)

14/01240/LBC **Freeman Forman 22 - 24 High Street, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent - Installation of two air conditioning units at rear (LB)

14/01243/HOUSE **16 Cambridge Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Demolition of garage and erection of elevated single storey shed at first floor level to create a covered car parking space, flat roof with planting and decking area to rear garden (CA)

14/01256/FULL **46, 48 And Rear Of 50 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Part change of use of 48 High Street from A1 to A3 and use in connection with adjoining premises at 46 and rear of 48 and 50 for restaurant (Class A3) use with ancillary bar; Alterations to shopfronts; Installation of plant; Variation of operating hours (CA)

14/01162/FULL **Units 1-6 Great Hall Arcade, Park**
- Installation of new shop front, ATM and ramp (CA)

14/01164/FULL **Units 1-6 Great Hall Arcade, Park**
- Installation of plant and machinery (CA)

14/01242/LBC **7 Calverley Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of existing single garage and construction of new double garage with basement store room and bed/sitting room over (LB)

14/01245/FULL **Garden Cottage 16 Calverley Park Gardens, Park**
- Minor Material Amendments to planning permission TW/14/00330/FUL - Erection of a single storey dwelling (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 10 May 2014



Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 26 MAY 2014

SW/14/0259:
Advertisement consent for one non-illuminated fascia sign - 99 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 1**

SW/14/0264:
A single storey agricultural worker dwelling and associated works - Parsonage Farm, Church Road, EASTCHURCH; **REASON 2**

SW/14/0299 & SW/14/0529:
Repairs to roof structure and reinstatement of room in loft space. New staircase, dormer window and window within gable wall of Grade II listed building - 46 The Street, NEWNHAM; **REASON 1** & 2

SW/14/0425:
Conversion of integral garage to a downstairs bedroom & shower room - 3 Dyngley Close, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 4**

SW/14/0478:
Variation of Condition 1 of NK/8/52/16 to allow 10 month occupancy - Saddlebrook Park, Warden Bay Road, LEYSDOWN; **REASON 3**

SW/14/0487:
Listed Building Consent for: Front Elevation - remove cement render, repair timber frame, insulate, re-render. Side Elevation - remove rotten weatherboarding, repair and replace weatherboarding as required - 47 London Road, NEWINGTON; **REASON 2**

SW/14/0489:
Variation of condition 16 of SW/98/0212 to allow the sale of A1 non-food goods by a catalogue showroom retailer from up to 150 square metres of the existing sales area - Homebase Ltd, Unit 1, Sittingbourne Retail Park, Mill Way, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

SW/14/0496:
Change of use from A1 (Retail) to A1 (Retail) & A3 (Restaurant) - 12 Market Place, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/14/0525:
Construction of a Solar Farm, to include the installation of solar panels to generate electricity with transformer housings, DNO substation, security fencing and cameras, temporary access track, landscaping and other associated works - Land off Cold Harbour Lane, BOBBING; **REASONS 3, 4 & 6**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning





EYES FORWARD: Barry Hawkins in action at this month's World Championship semi-final against Ronnie O'Sullivan at the Crucible Theatre; despite a 17-7 defeat, the Ditton man's confidence is high

After semi-final defeat it's time for Barry to focus on positives

Ditton's Barry Hawkins shares his thoughts with **David Mairs** about his performance in snooker's World Championship and tells how he believes the title could yet be his

YOU'VE just lost a World Championship semi-final to perhaps the greatest talent your sport has ever known. How do you feel? Good with yourself for having got so far, or gloomy at having fallen not so very far short?

It's the situation Barry Hawkins faced as he drove home from Sheffield's Crucible Theatre earlier this month having just been vanquished 17-7 by Ronnie O'Sullivan.

In reaching the semi-final, Hawkins, from Ditton, had matched his billing as the fourth best snooker-player in the world, but the overwhelming manner of the defeat was surely, at the very least, a reality check.

In his defence, the match came after an epic 13-12 victory the previous day over Welshman Dominic Dale in which Hawkins had let an 11-5 lead slip to pitch up one frame from departing the tournament. Somehow he found it within himself to rally and take the final two frames.

"Ideally, as No 4, you want to get to the semi-finals all the time, but it's easier said than done," he said. "I was gutted with how I played against Ronnie, but I've got to be pleased with how the last couple of years have gone.

"I don't like to make excuses, but I was shattered. I don't think I was mentally strong enough to bounce back – I should have been sharper. I was telling [coach and former world champion] Terry Griffiths that I didn't remember feeling that tired last year, when I reached the final. Perhaps it was the just the buzz of getting there.

"This time, though, I was drained... wiped out. It wasn't just the match with Ronnie, it was the whole tournament. I felt like I'd been battered and mentally beaten up.

"I was gutted initially after the match with Ronnie, getting so close. Once you've tasted the final, you want that chance again – it's what you dream of – but in the scheme of things to be in the last four was good.

"As we drove back, we had our little boy [five-year-old Harrison] in the car and I can't be all down in the dumps for him. I'm back to normal now – not depressed or anything."

Wife Tara and an aunt and uncle were also in the audience, but O'Sullivan attracts a sizeable and voluble support pretty much wherever he goes, so did the atmosphere affect him?

"There were quite a few people in the crowd calling my name as well, which was nice to hear. Although Ronnie is popular with many people, there are others who don't like him because of some of the things he's said, although he doesn't make as many silly statements now.

"Unfortunately, I didn't give the people backing me much to cheer about – I made too many silly mistakes and couldn't get going. Hopefully, next time it will be different."

Although the disappointment after the defeat was evident, one of the abiding memories of Hawkins's tournament was his punching of the table following that extraordinary match with Dale. He doesn't immediately strike you as the most demonstrative of characters.

"It happens every now and again. It's completely natural and not premeditated. It happens in most sports – in tennis they go mad sometimes – but

I think in snooker, particularly, you bottle a lot of it up. It was just a massive relief – it was so tense, having someone come back at you like that. It shows we're not just robots, shows how much it means to you."

Even the best lose every so often, but it's the ones in which they watch a winning position crumble that can hurt the most, which is presumably what Hawkins feared against Dale.

"Even when he went in front, I didn't feel like I'd squandered it. Things were going wrong with the few chances I did have, but he kept me off the table for much of the time.

"The pressure was on and it was really, really pleasing – not many people would have won from there. A few years ago, I would have folded, but I held myself together and I've got a lot of pride in what I did."

And then, the very next morning, came the match with O'Sullivan.

"I needed to get a good start – if you let him get away, it's really hard to pull him back in. I had a couple of bad kicks at a really bad time, otherwise I would have been closing the session at 4-4. I never really recovered.

"I started playing better and better, but it was only really the third session that I looked forward to going out and playing. I was feeling really drained.

"Still, it's something to learn from. I need to try to find ways to relax and sleep – it's so hard to turn off and wind down sometimes. You're trying to get to sleep and you're still buzzing.

"I rented a cottage near the Peak District, which was more relaxing, but you can't do anything about it and end up watching the TV. You can't get away from it – it didn't do that much harm, though, and you get to see how the matches are going and how your friends are getting on."

It might come as a surprise to some given the relative pace at which snooker is played, but 34-year-old Hawkins believes physical fitness is an area that could make the difference between just going close and taking the title.

"I think I need to work on my fitness – it obviously helps your mental strength and makes you feel better in yourself. Especially with so many tournaments, it takes its toll. I do some fitness work, but nothing to the extent Ronnie does. He goes running a lot and it certainly doesn't do him any harm.

"I go for bike rides with my little boy and when I'm in China for a tournament I use the gym, but I'm looking at more of a weekly routine."

The deflation of losing a match in such a big tournament is immense and Hawkins felt no temptation to linger around the Crucible once his own challenge had come to an end. "We stayed that night but then drove home next day. I'd been away for almost two weeks and started missing home. The first thing you want to do is get away – you do so much travelling all year round anyway.

"There are some players who get there early and one or two who stay around afterwards. You're there to win – it's soul-destroying once you get beaten, so you just want to get home and on to the next one. It's hard to find any player who stays unless they've got an exhibition match or a bit of work to do there."

The big question, of course, is how Hawkins can make it over that last hurdle. Finalist last year, semi-finalist this year, each time falling to the genius of O'Sullivan. What does he have to do so that one day soon Kent can be celebrating a snooker world champion?

"I just keep trying my best and working hard – it's all I can do. I don't think I'm too far away. I'm more and more consistent and more mentally prepared than I was.

> **"I just keep trying my best and working hard. I don't think I'm too far away. I'm more and more consistent and more mentally prepared than I was."**
>
> **Barry Hawkins**
> No 4 in world snooker rankings

"I'm not scared of him [O'Sullivan] – I showed that in last year's final. He seems to play his best against me and I think he enjoys playing me. In the final [which O'Sullivan lost to Mark Selby], there was a lot of safety and although he's a good safety player I don't think he enjoys it like that.

"Mark's the best player in the world now after winning the final. He can score really heavily, but he's not been doing it so often in the last couple of years. His safety game is the best in the world at the moment – that's why he's so consistent without playing his best. He just ruined Ronnie in the final and put him out of his stride so he couldn't get any rhythm going.

"That's every credit to Mark. I think Ronnie doesn't enjoy playing him."

Is there a clue there to how Hawkins might adapt his game? Perhaps he's a little too open?

"No, I don't think I'm too open. If I think I should go for a ball, I go for it. I don't know the reason he enjoys playing me – maybe he just likes me.

"I just have to keep trying to improve. I'm getting closer, but I must try to polish frames off in one visit. I had my chances against Ronnie and I must learn to take them.

"Any problems I have, I go to Terry [Griffiths]. He's there if I need him and we've improved a lot of things over the last couple of years. He's at the big tournaments and in the dressing room at intervals, and I can always go down to meet him at the South West Snooker Academy in Gloucester. "I'm trying not to tinker with the technical side of things – it's more about just keeping working on the mental side."

There is, thankfully, the chance for a breather before Hawkins heads out for the Wuxi Classic in China and then the Australian Goldfields Open – "I'll take it easy for a while before getting back to practice a couple of days before the event" – and then it's a good month off when he will "try to work the season out".

He will also quite possibly be trying to work out a way past O'Sullivan, Selby and any number of others coming up fast through the ranks.

Watching the final that he was only one match away from contesting was a frustrating experience.

"Sometimes Ronnie did lose concentration when the pressure was on. He was just getting his cueing wrong and completely missing easy balls that he didn't miss against me."

Now that, however much you've sharpened your mental side, must be galling. Hawkins laughs in agreement and you suspect that, as this affable sportsman says, he really isn't so very far away.



Copyright: LARRY WEDLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

YOUR FIRM'S CHANCE TO CUE UP TOP SPONSORSHIP DEAL

BUSINESSES have the opportunity to sponsor both Barry Hawkins and his friend and fellow Kent snooker-player Gerard Greene (who was runner-up in last month's Players Championship to Hawkins) next season.

This would entail the company logo being worn by the player(s) across the world. Potential tournaments are:

- Five major ranking events in China
- One major ranking event in Australia
- One invitational event in Thailand
- One major ranking event in India
- Champion of Champions (Coventry)
- UK Championship (York)
- One major ranking event in Germany
- Masters (London)
- Welsh Open (Cardiff?)
- Sky Shootout Invitational
- World Championship (Sheffield)
- Six European Tour events (including Germany, Poland and Bulgaria)
- World Grand Prix invitational event

A range of sponsorship options is available, from one-off tournaments to full- season packages, with prices depending on the level of hospitality required.

Apart from the satisfaction of supporting Kent sportsmen, other benefits can include photo shoots with the player(s), personally-endorsed memorabilia, pre- and post-event articles, media exposure on TV, in print and online and VIP tickets to professional tournaments.

The sport is flourishing at the moment, with more than 400 million viewers watching the game around the world. It is one of the top five most-watched sports in the UK, China and Europe and televised live in more than 70 countries.

If you are interested in sponsoring Hawkins or Greene (or both), you can contact Sarah Mount at The Capital Venue, Edison Close, Waterwells Business Park, Gloucester GL2 2FN (phone 01452 223214, email sarah.mount@onqpromotions.co.uk).

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Dave Mairs** on **01303 817022**

There's still time for runners to enter the Folkestone 10K

THE Folkestone Coastal 10K run is back for its third consecutive year later this month.

The first two years saw fields of more than 500 runners complete the event. Again with more than 200 pre-registered entrants, it is gearing up to be another big field.

The race is open to all, from beginners to experienced runners, and the organisers are encouraging local businesses to enter teams to challenge for the Corporate Trophy.

Starting from the Rotunda site on Folkestone seafront, the course heads out past Seabrook before returning along the promenade.

All proceeds and sponsorship from the race, on Sunday, May 25, go to local charities.

Visit www.folkestonecoastal10k.co.uk, or collect an entry form from Independent Insurance Services, 136 Sandgate Road, Folkestone.



Picture: SUSSEXSPORTPHOTOGRAPHY

JOG ON: Last year's run



LEAVING TOWN: Nicky Southall

Southall calls it a day at Whitstable

NICKY Southall quit as manager of Whitstable Town on Wednesday.

The Ryman South club finished the season in 20th place and the former Gillingham favourite reportedly announced his decision on Twitter.

A statement on the club website on Thursday said: "The club are disappointed to confirm that Nicky Southall last night resigned as manager of Whitstable Town FC, a matter he reported via social media late last night.

"On behalf of the club the chairman thanked Nicky for his personal professionalism and his efforts whilst at the club over the past two seasons."

Wolves make date to visit Margate

WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers will be travelling to Kent to play Margate in a pre-season friendly this summer.

The Sky Bet League One champions are at Hartsdown Park on Friday, July 25, to take on Terry Brown's Ryman League Premier Division team.

Kick-off time has yet to be agreed.

Folkestone lose out on penalties

FOLKESTONE Invicta missed out on promotion to the Premier Division of the Ryman League in heartbreaking fashion on Saturday last week.

A 1-1 draw against Leatherhead in the Ryman South play-off final at their own Fullicks Stadium meant the match went to a penalty shoot-out, which Invicta lost 3-1.

Taylor at Gills for two more years

PETER Taylor will be staying at Priestfield as Gillingham manager for two more years.

Club chairman Paul Scally made the announcement at the Player of the Year awards on Saturday evening last week.

The Gills website said Taylor was looking forward to "building a team".

Kent complete first victory of season

KENT won their first match of the LV= County Championship Division Two season on Wednesday when they reached 54-2 against Surrey to seal an eight-wicket victory.

Rob Key and Brendan Nash both hit 126 in Kent's first-innings total of 435 all out.

Surrey managed just 280 and 203 in their two innings.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:
Twitter @KentSport Facebook www.facebook.com/kentsport.3

SPRING SALE

Same day local delivery service*
*Stock items



Rimini Fabric Collection
3 seater sofa & 2 arm chairs

WAS £1398
NOW £899

SAVE £499



Fabric Electric Tilt & Rise Chair
(matching 2 seater std sofa available)

WAS £999
NOW £599

SAVE £400



Double Ortho
4 Drawer Divan Set

WAS £349
NOW £249

SAVE £100

SINGLE DIVAN BEDS **FROM £99**
SINGLE MATTRESSES **FROM £49**
DOUBLE DIVAN BEDS **FROM £149**
DOUBLE MATTRESSES **FROM £89**

High Seat Chairs FROM £199

Hand Made Fireside Chairs - at a Glance -Chairs now available to buy online

Choice of fabric, choice of wood colour. Matching 2 seaters available on all chairs



Simply Sofas & Beds

call now: **01634 296905**
39 High Street, Strood, Kent
OPEN: Mon-Sat 9–5.30 Sun Closed

www.simplysofasandbeds.co.uk

● Leather & fabric sofas & Sofa beds ● Divans ● Bedframes ● Mattresses
● Wing chairs ● Footstools ● Headboards

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE